1959 1995

ASSOCIATED WITH THE MYRTLEFORD SAVOY CLUB

THE MYRTLEFORD SAVOY SOCCER CLUB Inc.

A stroll through history

Written by Nicole Jackson

CLUB PRESIDENTS

1959: Con Leita
1960: Joe Cobbe
1961: Mario Merlonghi
1962: Romeo Roso
1963: Rocky D'Agostino
1964: Rocky D'Agostin
1965: Rocky D'Agostino
1966: Rocky D'Agostino
1967: Rocky D'Agostino
1968: Pompeo Paterno
1969: Remy Novak
1970: Pompeo Paterno
1971: Pompeo Paterno
1972: Pompeo Paterno
1973: Pompeo Paterno
1974: Peter Dussin
1975: Pompeo Paterno
1976: Pompeo Paterno
1977: Pompeo Paterno
1978: Pompeo Paterno
1979: Pompeo Paterno
1980: Pompeo Paterno
1981: Pompeo Paterno
1982: Pompeo Paterno
1983: Pompeo Paterno
1984: Pompeo Paterno
1985: Nino Mautone
1986: Nino Mautone
1987: Barry Nunn
1988: Frank Bonacci
1989: Frank Bonacci
1990: Nat Mercuri
1991: Nat Mercuri
1992: Frank Bonacci
1993: Frank Bonacci
1994: Frank Sacco

LIFE MEMBERS FOR THE MYRTLEFORD SAVOY SOCCER CLUB ARE: *Rocky D'Agostino, Pompeo Paterno, Remy and Adrian Novak, Jim Rebuffo, Vic Pin, Teresa Novak, Dario Marotta and Ottorino Dal Santo.*

The elected committee members for the up and coming 1995 season are: *Vic Pin, Dot Jackson, Dario and Mim Marotta, Sebastiano Reverenna, Tony Grandinetti, Cheryl Sanderson, Nat Mercuri, Remy Novak, Lou Cappellari and Terry McCormack.*

Members of the executive committee are:
President: Frank Sacco
Vice president: Frank Bonacci
Secretary: Diane Costanzo
Treasurer: Carla Bau

FOREWORD

There will be a place which will be reached where a muttered "where did she get that from," will come from readers who know more about the history of the soccer club than the author. So I have taken care to make the history as accurate as possible and apologise for the inevitable mistakes.

Everyone's interpretation of history varies and, thus, correct facts or truths may never be known. I have attempted to collate events according to the information I have received which has come from a variety of sources - recollections, records, newspaper files and segments of the local Myrtleford Times retrieved from the Myrtleford Historical Society.

I have sought and received helpful advice from my parents, Elvira Casagrande, Vic Pin and Dario and Mim Marotta and to all those remaining people who have assisted with information and advice my sincere thanks.

Thanks also to those who contributed photographs, press cuttings and information and the local businesses and organisations who offered their support for the publication of the book.

To those not previously interested in the history of the Myrtleford soccer club I hope you will find this booklet interesting and enjoyable to read. May the booklet be handed down to the next generations of those players who have made the soccer club become what it is today.

"HAPPY READING!"

THE ORIGINS OF THE MYRTLEFORD SAVOY SOCCER CLUB

Can you imagine a group of young local lads having a kick around with a dirty, ragged soccer ball. Tired from a hard days work on tobacco, the group was not only having some leisure but improving what would one day become soccer techniques. For Greg Saric and partner, Carlo Parozzi, kicking the soccer ball was a means of filling in time. But before long, the pair had an audience and, while just fooling around, the local lads soon realised that the group actually had potential. These local boys soon inspired and motivated others in the Myrtleford area to join in the friendly games of soccer being played in the district.

In the late 1950's competition was real, but the concept of an official competition was unheard of. What the team referred to as 'friendly' games consisted of a game of soccer followed by a night of festivity. With the growing interest of players it was decided that the time was appropriate for the formation of an official Myrtleford soccer team.

With the help of Mario Merlonghi, the boys dream soon became reality. Mario drove to Wodonga that very day to register the Myrtleford side and came back announcing that the team was to play in Bonegilla on the following Sunday. But what team? With no uniforms, boots or even players, a team of 11 was formed and the side borrowed training guernseys from the Myrtleford Football club - featuring black, white and red as the side's original team colours.

The side called themselves Savoy, named after the local Italian club, and it was with the help of such initiators as Mario Merlonghi, Rocky D'Agostino, Con Leita and Tulio Matassoni that soccer in Myrtleford prevailed.

It was not until 1959 that soccer was officially recognised as it was in this year that the first executive committee was formed.

The members were:
President: Con Leita
Vice President: Carlo Parozzi
Secretary: Rocky D'Agostino
Treasurer: Tulio Matassoni

In 1960, soccer matches appeared in the local paper and the game won the respect of local spectators. With money raised through gate takings and social events the club soon purchased their own uniforms and equipment. Soccer matches were initially conducted at the Myrtleford football ground where the Savoy Soccer Club soon made a name for itself.

The official history of the club may have began in 1960, but for some of the very first players their history begins well before then and, it is from there, that soccer in Myrtleford truly began.

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The following are the very first team photos - taken in the 1959/1960 season.

Back row: Rudolf Hoffman, Attilio Panozzo, Adolf Hoffman, Guiseppe Boarotto, Mario Bunardi, Tony Boarotto, Rocky D'Agostino, Guglielmo Pozzebon, Sergio Barban, Tony Baldosso, Joe Cobbe (President) Tulio Matassoni, Sergio Panozzo. Front row: Aurello Calligari, Marco Igri, Mario Mioni, Mario Merlonghi, Frank Mirt, "Elvis" (trainer), Allessandro Sbarra

Back row: Mrs Nunzio Borsari, Adolf Hoffman, Frank Mirt, C Montini, Tony Baldosso, Mrs D Camillo. Middle row: Mario Merlonghi, Giuseppe Boarotto, Sergio Barban, Marco Igri. Front row: Tony Boarotto, Mario Mioni, Aurello Calligari and the trainer

The executive committee members in 1960 were:
President: Joe Cobbe
Vice President: Lou Saccutelli
Secretary: Roley Carlassare
Treasurer: Bruno Bettio

The 1960 season lured the inexperienced but eager Myrtleford side to participate in a number of knockout competitions. Early in the season the team displayed a rather talented side of players in a knockout premiership at Cobram. Myrtleford played a number of impressive games reaching the grandfinal to compete against the homeside. The team seemed certain to bring home the cup, but when four players sustained injuries, Myrtleford had to be content with only runners up. Frank Mirt was one of the injured players, landing himself in hospital for the afternoon following a head on collision with a Cobram player and receiving stitches above his eye.

In the latter half of the season a second knockout competition was staged in Myrtleford. Three games were played with Cobram defeating Myrtleford 2-1 in the first game. In the second game, Wodonga defeated Myrtleford 3-2 and in the final, Wodonga defeated Cobram 2-1.

Publicity manager, Mr Thorpe of WD & HO Wills, presented Wodonga with a trophy known as the Ascot trophy. Mr Thorpe commented that he had witnessed several games of soccer in Melbourne and he considered North Eastern soccer to be of a very high standard. The best and fairest player of each side also received a carton of Ascot cigarettes with Jim Boarotto, of Myrtleford, being rewarded for his superior play.

The next week a letter appeared in the local Myrtleford Times newspaper by Mr Roley Carlassare. Mr Carlassare stated that the knockout competition should increase interest in the Border District Association as popularity was wanning with only three teams remaining in the competition.

Registered players in the 1960 season were: Antonio Dellariva, Aurello Callegari, Marco Igri, Frank Mirt (Captain) Luciano Mazzoc, Guglieimo Pozzebon, Antonio Baldosso, Mario Mioni (vice captain) Giuseppe Boarotto, Sergio Barban, Antonio Boarotto, Luccio Pozzebon, Chris Stopar, Nunzio Bottari, Victor Viola, Klaus Geretschlager, Allessandro Sbarra, Severino Travain and Giuseppe De luca. The registration fee was three shillings per player. Teams initially registered in the 1960 competition were Myrtleford, Lavington, Wodonga, Bandiana and Cobram.

The executive committee in the 1961 season was:
President: Mario Merlonghi
Vice President: Otto Dal Santo
Secretary: Silvio Nasato
Treasurer: Tulio Matassoni

Myrtleford was looked upon as a team of great potential in the 1961 season. After two home and away matches, Myrtleford led the premiership ladder with two wins, 17 goals and four points. As the season progressed so did the skills and standard of the Myrtleford side with the team defeating some of the top competitors promoting them to first position on the ladder.

The real contest was yet to come with a controversial game between Myrtleford and Bonegilla which was to decide outright leaders in the competition. Holding a 2-1 lead Bonegilla looked set for victory but Myrtleford's fiery attack led the side to score a goal in the closing stages of the game. The referee allowed the goal initially but after speaking to the Bonegilla goalie he reversed his decision. Myrtleford claimed that the referee's decision was incorrect and lodged an unsuccessful protest.

The 1961 season saw signs of tension between the soccer and football club when soccer president, Mario Merlonghi, apologised in The Myrtleford Times for the soccer club playing on the wet ground the week before (with the chance of damaging it). Mr Merlonghi explained his actions by stating "If Myrtleford had not played the match, the side would have lost two precious points and they would, therefore, have lost all hope of claiming top position. I was compelled to play on your ground (the football club) owing to the fact that I was advised at the last minute and was at a loss to know where to hold the match." Mr Merlonghi continued to say "The football team, as well as the soccer team, must strive to keep Myrtleford's name at a high standard and in order to arrive at that we must help each other."

It was in 1962 that Myrtleford first entered the Goulburn Murray Soccer Federation. The executive committee for this year was:
President: Romeo Roso
Vice President: Mario Merlonghi
Secretary: Remy Novak
Treasurer: Tulio Matassoni

After a reasonable start to the season Myrtleford showed signs of improvement with a convincing 3-nil win against the undefeated Cobram side. Myrtleford then followed with wins against Macedonia, Wangaratta City, Shepparton, Tatura and Benalla, slowly climbing their way up the leadership ladder. After six wins and one draw Myrtleford's track record was excellent and with players such as Marco Igri, Gabrielle Michielin, Frank Mirt and Adrian Novak, Myrtleford was fast becoming a team hard to beat.

In the next few weeks, Myrtleford was defeated by Roma (Shepparton) but retaliated the following week with an outstanding 7-1 win against Girgaree and a 2-1 win against the top side, Cobram, defiantly holding fourth position. The ladder at the end of the season was: Roma 28 points, Benalla 24, Shepparton United 23, Cobram 22, Myrtleford 21, Macedonia 20, Wangaratta 18, Girgarre 12, Shepparton City 8 and Tatura 4.

Office bearers in 1963 were as follows:
President: Rocky D'Agostino
Vice President: Mario Roso
Secretary: Con Leita
Treasurer: Dino Piazza

Myrtleford continued into the 1963 season with a formidable side and upon winning a number of commendable games soon secured second position on the ladder. Myrtleford displayed their superiority over Wangaratta City and with a 4-1 victory they moved to the head of the premiership table becoming top contenders for the finals.

The finals competition saw Myrtleford display their true colours with the team defeating Benalla 2-1 in one of the closest and fastest finals yet. Myrtleford opened play dominating in every position but, in the second half, Benalla's centre forward headed the ball into the net drawing the score 1-1. Both defences held until seven minutes before fulltime when Myrtleford player, Severino Travain, evaded Benalla's defence and scored bringing the side to victory. In the grandfinal, the following week, Myrtleford produced much of the same dominating play to defeat Wodonga and become 1963 premiership winners.

It was in 1964 that the Myrtleford club affiliated with the North Eastern Soccer Federation. Executive committee members in this year were:
President: Rocky D'Agostino
Vice President: Mario Roso
Secretary: Con Leita
Treasurer: Dino Piazza

Both the Myrtleford senior and reserves side continued with their commendable play from the previous season. Both teams excelled in every game, with confident wins again and again, going on to become 1964 premiers. What more needs to be said?

The year also saw the club extend a big welcome to their star goalkeeper Adrian Novak who returned to the district.

There was the possibility of big changes planned for the soccer club in the future with the presentation of sketch plans for proposed dressing sheds at Memorial Park. The plans incorporated a single large dressing room and showers to be built into the existing luncheon pavilion. The estimated cost of the extension was 1,800 pounds - with a 1,200 pound grant from the local shire and a balance of 600 pounds to be raised by the community. The soccer club showed a keen interest in Memorial Park for staging future games.

The 1965 executive committee was made up of the following members:
President: Rocky D'Agostino
Vice president: Mario Roso
Secretary: Romeo Roso
Treasurer: Dino Piazza

Myrtleford started the season with an outstanding 5-0 victory over Wangaratta City. The club then followed with a 5-2 win over Wodonga and a 5-2 win over King Valley. By the end of the first month, Myrtleford had secured top position with a 4-1 win against the Wangaratta Rayonaires and the side continued the season with comfortable wins repeatedly.

With a strong backline, skilful forwards and superb goalkeeping Myrtleford could do no wrong taking out the 1965 premiership and making it the side's third in succession. The Myrtleford reserves also followed the seniors success becoming premiers for the second consecutive year.

Myrtleford's successive three premiership wins resulted in the Myrtleford club becoming eligible to compete in the Victorian Soccer Championships. The team at the top of the ladder at the end of the season was declared premiers and the leaders then challenged for the Federation cup. Both the reserves and senior side represented Myrtleford as 1965 pennant winners and the two sides were also victorious in the Federation cup. Pictured below is the victorious Myrtleford Savoy Soccer team - premiers in the NESF for three successive years. Back row: Luciano Severin, Marco Igri, Severino Travain, Adrian Novak, Lou Fabrijanic (coach) Frank Mirt, Jim Rebuffo and Feruccio Pilotto. Front row: Romeo Roso (secretary) Flavio Faggion, Gabrielle Michielin (Captain) Gino Barducci, Remy Novak and Robert Montgomery.

The victorious Myrtleford Savoy Soccer side - premiers in the NESF for three successive years.

The executive committee in 1966 was:
President: Rocky D'Agostino
Vice president: Pompeo Paterno
Secretary: Emil Boscutti
Treasurer: Mario Roso

Myrtleford's reign of victory continued throughout the 1966 soccer season with exemplary wins of 8-1 against Cobram and 4-0 against Albury. The big highlight though, was the soccer match of the year - the match that was to bring Myrtleford to its knees before King Valley - but instead proved Myrtleford was the top team in 1966 when Myrtleford defeated King Valley, 4-2, giving the side a five point lead on the premiership ladder.

While Myrtleford was confidently doing battle on the ground, club delegates were winning a legal battle in Melbourne. The dispute was between Wangaratta City and the Myrtleford club concerning the membership of Bruno Tomasov. The controversy was over Tomasov's registration as he had previously signed a NESF form with Wangaratta City but decided to play with the Savoy Club. Tomasov played with Myrtleford in the first match but Wangaratta protested claiming Tomasov was their player. Ultimately, Wangaratta refused a transfer, it was ruled Tomasov was still registered with his previous club, Wodonga, so Myrtleford applied for transfer papers and was successful. Ironically, Tomasov was suspended for 12 weeks. (This in itself was unconstitutional) Fortunately Myrtleford regained their eight premiership points lost from games which Tomasov played.

Amongst all this havoc FRANK MIRT celebrated his 200th game!

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On an even higher note, Myrtleford went on to become 1966 premiers again. In an amazing effort the side was seven points ahead of their nearest rivals, with 61 goals to their credit and only 12 scored against them. Credit went to all the team members and a rather amusing piece appeared in The Myrtleford Times applauding the mighty efforts of specific players and introducing the team one by one. The following is an extract from that article: ADRIANO NOVAK - calm, always diligent, sure and acrobatic. We can call him the "Magic Cat" of the team. FLAVIO FAGGION - back with the firsts he demonstrated his usual determination and steadiness. FRANK MIRT - to describe the sort of player and man he is, let's just say he played two full games on Sunday, at his age. GERMANO REBUFFO - one of the most outstanding players of Myrtleford; superb on the tackles, unbeatable on the ball. GABRIELLE MICHIELIN - what more can we say of him than he is the captain and coach of this team of champions and championships. REMY NOVAK - he is the perfect combination of skill and determination; one of our pillars. SEVERINO TRAVAIN - fast and incredibly tricky. Where his legs don't arrive his heart does. GIANNI FACCIN - when and where the team needs him, he is there - but he is more than just a utility man because modesty has made Gianni a versatile player. PETER TROSELJ - the headache for all rival defences and top scorer for the North East. Just what he likes to be - a soccer star. MARCO IGRI - he always tries his best, working hard and making his willpower his most dangerous weapon. ROBERT MONTGOMERY - With his dribbling and fantastic timing he is always one of the most dangerous men in our forward line and sometimes a match winning scorer.

And what would you expect of a team like this? To win the grandfinal of course. However, the side was eliminated from the grandfinal for the first time in five years. And the reason? It was stated in the local paper that "after winning the premiership the boys got drunk on a very special liqueur - commonly called glory in sport."

1966 was also a very social year with the 1966 Soccer Ball being a great success. Dancing was from 8.30 - 2am and admission was $1.50 for ladies and $2.50 for gents. One of the major attractions was the selection of Miss Soccer and Miss Charity. Julia Evans, of Corowa, was voted the prestigious Miss Soccer and popular young local girl, Adriana Cobbe, was the winner of Miss Charity.

Office bearers in 1967 were:
President: Rocky D'Agostino
Vice president: Pompeo Paterno
Secretary: Pat Mastroianni
Treasurer: Mario Roso

Enthusiasm prevailed in 1967 when record crowds witnessed the elimination matches for the Alitalia cup in Myrtleford. This was the greatest lineup of teams to take part in a knockout competition in the history of the North Eastern Soccer Federation. With sides such as Milawa, Cobram, Benalla, Whorouly United, Wangaratta City, Albury United and Wodonga, Myrtleford Savoy had a task before them. However, under the expert guidance of coach, Lou Fabrijanic, Myrtleford gave a good and impressionable lesson of soccer for the large crowd of spectators. Myrtleford's lineup was: Adrian Novak, Gabrielle Michielin, Gianni Faccin, Jim Boarotto, Remy Novak, Severino Travain, Rino Calzavarra, Lou Fabrijanic, Robert Montgomery, Renzo Bellato, Antonio Marcando and Giuseppe Pellizzari.

Although Myrtleford did not begin the home and away season with great success, due to a number of significant injuries, the latter half of the season renewed interest for local supporters with Myrtleford returning to their fine form and, after five consecutive wins, the side was only two points off top position. However, Myrtleford's successive run did not last and they soon slipped down the ladder.

It seemed that it was up to the reserves side to defend Myrtleford's title - which they did - defeating Cobram 2-nil in the grandfinal. The reserves team line-up was Gino Benedetti, Frank Mirt, Ubaldi, Mario Mioni, Giuseppe Pellizzari, Danilo Crespan, Marco Igri, Porcellati, Gianni Faccin, Albert Zanghellini, Tony Farronato and Giuseppe Marotta.

After five years, Rocky D'Agostino retired as president of the Savoy Soccer club. The executive committee in 1968 was:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice president: Victor Torresan
Secretary: Dario Marotta
Treasurer: Mario Roso

1968 proved to be an exciting year with the first Myrtleford junior side (under 13) making their debut. The pride of the Myrtleford club was placed in the boys of the junior team as their enthusiasm and willingness to learn the fine art of soccer was evident. The young side promised to show potential in coming years and with an exemplary display of talent in the Southern Riverina Junior Soccer Carnival at Albury, the side was victorious in the Nolan Bros. cup.

In the first match Myrtleford defeated Wodonga 1-0 and then Albury 4-0, qualifying for the final against a much bigger and more mature Benalla side. At half time Benalla had forced their way back to a 2-nil lead. Nevertheless, the local side fought back with determination and levelled the scores 2-2 at fulltime. Through penalty kicks Myrtleford emerged victorious 3 goals to 2.

Before the season had even began it was predicted that the senior side was in for a successful one. Under the guidance of experienced coach, Joe Manzella, players were keen to take the side back to top position again. With a 3-1 win against Wodonga in the first match the club continued to show top form and, although it was early in the year, Myrtleford was already tipped to take out the 1968 premiership flag.

The executive committee - Left to right: Mario Roso (treasurer) Rocky D'Agostino (1st life member) Joe Manzella (coach) Victor Torresan (vice president) Dario Marotta (secretary) Pompeo Paterno (president)

Following the Myrtleford soccer club's refusal to grant soccer player, Vic Pin, a clearance from the club Vic was ultimately forced to travel from Anglesea every Sunday to play in the district competition.

After six consecutive wins, Myrtleford finally suffered their first defeat to the hands of King Valley, 6-1, which threatened the side's premiership prospects. Myrtleford was forced to pull up their socks and with a 3-1 win against Cobram, one of the strongest teams in the league, Myrtleford consolidated top position.

In a thrilling second semifinal, Myrtleford proved who the better team was defeating King Valley 6-3. It was in the grandfinal that pressure was really put on the Myrtleford side. Cobram matched Myrtleford's every move drawing the scores one all. In a replay of the grandfinal, the following week, Myrtleford was overcome by a faster and more determined Cobram side going down to a 3-nil lead at halftime. In the latter stages of the match, Myrtleford displayed the standard that had won them the pennant but the side had left their run too late with Cobram grandfinal winners 3-2.

The club extended a thank-you to Gino Barducci who was married on the Sunday but delayed his honeymoon to partake in the game.

The 1968 season also saw the introduction of the Dante Alighieri Society Soccer cup which continued to be an annual feature. The proceeds of the cup went to the local hospitals and, with Myrtleford's successful win, the Myrtleford hospital received 50 percent of the gate takings.

Pictured is the newly formed junior (under 13) soccer side.

Pictured below is the 1968 Savoy side - defeated in the grandfinal by Cobram 3-2. Back row: Joe Manzella (coach) Gino Barducci, Tony Sindic, Remy Novak, unknown, Flavio Faggion, Tony Farronato, Luigi Casagrande, Pompeo Paterno (President) (trainer) Front row: player unknown, Cesare, Alex Manzella, Giuseppe Marotta, Vic Pin.

The 1969 executive committee consisted of the following members:
President: Remy Novak
Vice President: Victor Torresan
Secretary: Dario Marotta
Treasurer: Peter Marotta

1969 saw the rise of violence between opposing sides continue in the district competition. Players were forced to fend for themselves, both on and off the field, even to the extent where female spectators would chase the opposition with their umbrellas and heel stilettos. Now that would be a sight to see!

Myrtleford Savoy produced a gallant effort in 1969 and with many ups and downs maintained an impressive position on the ladder finishing second. However, without the services of injured players Montgomery, Sivic and Travain in the finals, who could have added sufficient experience to the side, Myrtleford was defeated by Cobram in the second semifinal.

Not staying down for long, Myrtleford retaliated with a 4-1 win over Milawa in the preliminary final advancing to the grandfinal. Here Myrtleford was prepared for Cobram's experience and strength and the side went in with force only to lose 2-1 in a very close and exciting game. Cobram scored the first goal after 10 minutes of play and, with their fortunes soaring, Myrtleford equalised the game before fulltime. It was only in the extra period that a lucky goal clinched the game for Cobram and brought them to victory yet again.

The 1970 executive committee was:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice president: Giuseppe Marvilla
Secretary: Dario Marotta
Treasurer: Gino Barducci

1970 saw signs of tension between the soccer club and the Savoy club when the soccer committee felt it was necessary to venture out on their own and withdraw from the Savoy Club's support. The two could not come to the same agreement on a variety of issues causing difficulties if the pair were to continue supporting each other in the future. Fortunately the split only lasted for the one season and the problems were resolved.

Although Myrtleford had many ups and downs throughout the season, the determined side not only won games, but they won their games well. In an outstanding game against King Valley, Myrtleford annihilated the opposition - breaking the standing NESL record for the highest score kicked.

With both the Myrtleford defence and attackers playing to the best of their ability the side had already scored four goals before the half way mark of the first half and the side added another two goals before halftime. In the second half Myrtleford continued devastating King Valley scoring a further 12 goals. Final Scores: Myrtleford a commendable 18, King Valley 0. Goal scorers were: David Symes 10, Robert Montgomery 3, Des Whitfield 2, John Roberts 1, Adam Kovacevic 1, own goal 1.

Congratulations went to David Symes who finished the match with an all time league record of 10 goals. With this achievement David jumped straight to the top of the La Fiamma trophy tally for the goal kickers honour.

If you thought that effort was incredible luck sure was with the Myrtleford side when the team subsequently went on to defeat Deniliquin ,18-0, equalising their previous record. Goal scorers: Adam Kovacevic 4, David Symes 4, Robert Montgomery 4, Des Whitfield 2, Albert Zanghellini 2, Jim Rebuffo 1, Gabrielle Michielin 1.

Not to be left out the Myrtleford reserves also thrashed Deniliquin 10-nil.

In the 1970 grandfinal Myrtleford came head on with their old rivals, Cobram, in another close and exciting grandfinal. The Myrtleford side kept attacking at the Cobram goals again and again but was most unlucky with their shots. When the final whistle blew the score was Cobram 3, Myrtleford 2.

The Myrtleford reserves also produced some great soccer throughout the season going on to defeat Cobram in the grandfinal. Within minutes of the game Myrtleford scored but Cobram managed to draw by halftime. In the second half the local side came on determined to win and, win they did, scoring two more goals and holding Cobram scoreless. Final scores: Myrtleford 3, Cobram 1.

Not forgetting the junior side the team continued with a winning streak throughout the season, maintaining an impressive top position, only to lose to Wangaratta in the grandfinal. 1970 was a great season for Myrtleford with all three teams making a mark in the final series.

The executive committee in 1971 was:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice president: Victor Torresan
Secretary: Dario Marotta
Treasurer:

The juniors began the season as a competent and skilful team and the side was undefeated well into the season. However, with losses in the latter half of the year, the juniors soon lost their spark and were excluded from the first semifinal against Wangaratta.

Following a similar effort, the reserves upheld the Myrtleford tradition of persistence and class only to lose to Wodonga 3-1 in the semifinal. Depleted by injuries and ills, and composed of several juniors, the reserves won the appreciation of the spectators as the side tackled a bigger and fitter Wodonga team with determination and persistence.

The senior side was a different story. With a poor start to the season, Myrtleford soon returned to a confident combination becoming a strong threat to the leadership. With impressive wins against Deniliquin, 11-0, Wangaratta City, 5-1, and Benalla, 10-1, Myrtleford made their way into the grandfinal to retrieve their honour lost against Cobram the year before.

In the grandfinal, Myrtleford's passing system was superb but Cobram was able to answer Myrtleford's every effort. In a tense and desperate game, Myrtleford fought till the very end but a crowded goal by Cobram in the closing minutes yielded the opposing side with a victory yet again. Final score: Cobram 4, Myrtleford 3.

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The women show the men how it is done ...

A large crowd attended the big match at the football ground yesterday, when the ladies of the Soccer Club battled it out with the Weight Watchers at soccer and football. Final figures are not yet to hand, but it is estimated that the local hospital will receive about $300 as a result of the function.

The Weight Watchers proved to be too strong on the day and defeated the Soccer Club girls 6-0 at soccer. In Australian Rules football, Weight Watchers 6-4 (40) defeated Savoy Club Ladies 1-9 (15).

Pictured (are the girls who took part in the two matches.

(Rayner-Photo).

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Hours
Monday - Friday – 8.45 am - 5.45 pm – Saturday - 9.00 am - 12.00 noon

Myrtleford's stars in the 1971 North East Soccer League. Left to right: Jim Rebuffo, Severino Travain and Adam Kovacevic.

Members on the executive committee in 1972 were:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice president: Victor Torresan
Secretary: Dario Marotta
Treasurer: Filippo Traini

Myrtleford made it into the history books in 1972 when local couple Mr Emil and Ann Boscutti were elected president and secretary of the North Eastern Soccer League. Mrs Boscutti was the very first woman in Australia to be appointed to an executive position in soccer administration.

A new innovation was put in place for the 1972 season with a decision to divide teams into two divisions and introduce a system of relegation. Division 1 comprised Cobram, Myrtleford, King Valley, Wodonga, Shepparton City, Shepparton United, Whorouly and Benalla. Division 2 included the four clubs Albury, Wangaratta, Seymour and Orvale. Under the new system of relegation the two bottom teams on the ladder at the end of the season were relegated to Division 2 and the two top sides in Division 2 were promoted to Division 1.

The Myrtleford side proved their skill and composition defeating Cobram 3-2 in the annual Alitalia cup. Before record crowds the side gave local supporters a fine display of team work proving that they would once again be a driving force throughout the season.

After a good start things only got better for Myrtleford but after four consecutive wins the side suffered their first loss to Benalla 4-2. Myrtleford soon pulled up their socks and retaliated with an honourable win against Cobram in the Con Stravos cup and a 5-1 victory against Shepparton United when NESL rounds commenced the following week.

With untroubled wins against Cobram and King Valley, Myrtleford moved two games ahead of their nearest rival and, they wrapped up the season with a 3-1 win over Shepparton taking home the 1972 pennant premiership. The league cup, decided from the top four sides, was all that stood between Myrtleford and a complete sweep of all major North East awards with Myrtleford winning the premiership, the Alitalia cup and the Con Stravos cup.

Myrtleford's two representatives in the 1972 North East soccer side, John Roberts and "Scottie" Montgomery, made Myrtleford proud when they produced some of their finest soccer in the NE representative games. With Roberts in defence and Montgomery in the forward line our local stars were key players.

The executive committee in 1973 was:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice president: Victor Torresan
Secretary: Dario Marotta
Treasurer: Sesto Tomaino

With well known soccer player, Robert Montgomery, appointed coach of the Myrtleford club only good things were predicted to come in 1973. Montgomery had been a member of the Myrtleford side for the previous seven years and recognised as one of the most talented attackers in the North East league. Other new players included Scotsman John Bain, recruited from Shepparton South, and the return of Adam Kovacevic.

With racial tensions evident between the opposing sides in the competition, it was at the annual presentation night that soccer president, Mr Pompeo Paterno, highlighted the fact that there was no racial prejudice in the Myrtleford side which comprised seven different nationalities.

The season was an unpredictable one with the club having many wins and losses. In one of the most impressive efforts all three sides managed to score resounding victories over Shepparton South. The thirds proved far too strong for the visitors defeating Shepparton 4-1. Likewise, the Myrtleford reserves, having their full team for the first time in weeks, raced away from the opposition scoring an 8-nil victory. The seniors also played particularly well and their passing system was a major feature in the side defeating Shepparton 8-1.

By mid season, the soccer premiership was still wide open with any of the top five sides finishing premiers and with Myrtleford in the top group, the premiership was still within reach. Another stunning 6-1 victory over King Valley pushed the senior side into third place only one point behind the leaders. On this day, all three Myrtleford sides displayed exemplary games with the seconds defeating King Valley 2-0 and the thirds recording a 4-nil victory.

In another triple success against Orvale, the local junior side recorded a runaway victory of 9-nil. The seniors won their game 4-2 creeping into second position and the reserves recorded a 2-1 victory.

After a brilliant game by the Myrtleford senior side, in which they slammed four goals to one against Shepparton United, they moved straight into the 1973 grandfinal which once again brought together the two old rivals Myrtleford and Cobram. In a breathtaking finish to the grandfinal, decided by penalty kicks, Myrtleford outscored Cobram 3-2 with one penalty to spare and won the 1973 premiership in brilliant fashion. For Myrtleford it was a great climax to a season in which they missed out as pennant leaders and winners of the Alitalia cup. The grandfinal produced many great individual efforts and without the strength of goalie, Alex Manzella, the results may have been different. Other imperative players were Rudi Hummel, Jim Rebuffo, Vic Pin and Bepi Tudor.

The reserves were eliminated from the finals after a 4-1 defeat by Wangaratta City.

Myrtleford captain, Jim Rebuffo, proudly displays the 1973 grandfinal cup

Executive committee members in 1974 were:
President: Peter Dussin
Vice president: Des Whitfield
Secretary:
Treasurer: Sesto Tomaino

1974 proved to be an innovative year with the introduction of the Savoy Ladies Committee to assist in the financial and social aspects of the club. The energetic committee consisted of Teresa Novak as president, Connie Montgomery as vice president, Belinda Dirindin as secretary and Nadia Rebuffo as treasurer.

Apart from the social angle, the ladies assisted in raising money to help the club meet administration costs and field three sides each week. As the committee's first fundraising effort the ladies conducted a bike-athon.

Frank Mirt was appointed trainer for the 1974 season and training was held every Friday night at 8pm.

Myrtleford started the season with flying colours when all three teams recorded outstanding wins against the Tatura side. The juniors defeated Tatura to the tune of 5-0 and the reserves produced an even more commendable score annihilating Tatura 12-nil. The senior side followed in fine form completing a hat trick and defeating Tatura 3-0. Congratulations went to Andrew Della Torre for his three magnificent goals.

In 1974 support was on the decline for the local soccer matches. The Myrtleford soccer club had a remarkable record in recent years winning more premiership pennants than any other club in the league. But success did not come often throughout 1974 and the club could only end the season with high hopes for 1975.

1975 executive committee members were:
President :Pompeo Paterno
Vice President: Des Whitfield
Secretary:
Treasurer:

Myrtleford suffered a number of defeats in the initial games of the 1975 soccer season, but holding their head high, the side soon improved and recorded a 9-nil victory against newcomers Kyabram. Playing in heavy rain, it had no effect on Myrtleford's drive to win the ball or their superb passing. Myrtleford dominated play to the tune of five goals in the first half and a further four in the second half.

In one of the most exciting senior games witnessed in Myrtleford for many years the game between Myrtleford and Shepparton South was eventually drawn 5-5. The Shepparton side scored within seconds of kick off and prospects looked bleak for Myrtleford when Shepparton kicked their second. Nevertheless, the scores were soon equalised with superb shots from Myrtleford players Des Whitfield and Lou Cappellari. However, Shepparton's forward line was well on top of Myrtleford's defence and the opposition recovered with another two goals leading 4-2. Again Myrtleford rallied to level the scores with two goals from Bert Zanghellini but Shepparton was able to score again, just before half time, to lead 5-4 at the interval. Myrtleford fought hard in the second half and was rewarded when Adam Kovacevic scored. Neither side, although given opportunities, could score the winning goal.

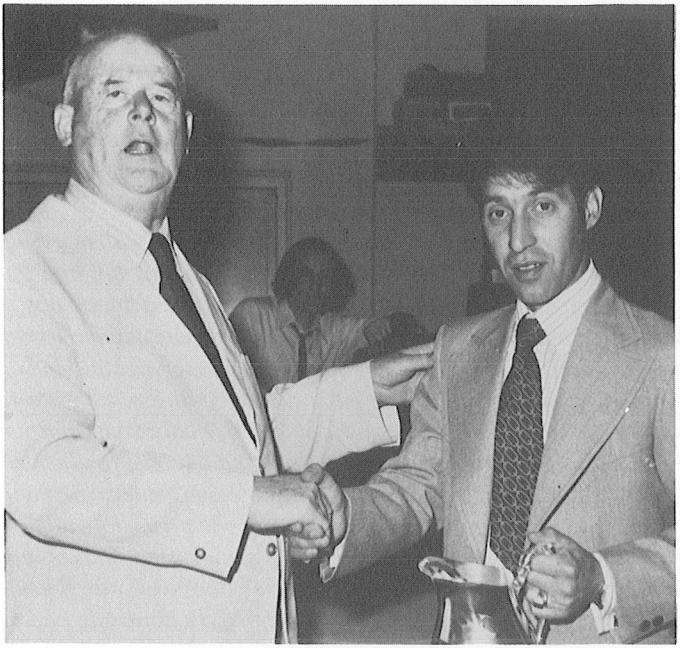
The senior side finished the season with a 4-2 defeat forcing the side from gaining a place in the top four. Thus, in the finals series, it was the Myrtleford reserves that proved to be the more skilful side. However, after being defeated 4-0 by Shepparton South, Myrtleford lost their double chance in the finals. Yet this was of no concern to the determined reserves team and, with a 3-nil victory against Shepparton in the semifinal, the side gained a well deserved place in the 1975 grandfinal.

Within minutes of the kickoff , in tne grandfinal, Myrtleford suffered a set back when they own-goaled to give Shepparton United a 1-nil lead. But this mistake only made the side more determined and when Myrtleford player, Ronnie Bau, outran two players he followed with a brilliant goal levelling the scores.

In the second half, it was through the superb goaling of Frank Bonacci that Shepparton remained scoreless and when Martinez hit a loose ball, Myrtleford finished the game with a 2-1 victory and the reserve grade premiership cup.

Through many ups and downs the junior side managed to display a potentially talented side of players and, although the side did not make a finals appearance, their season was a good one nevertheless.

Vic Pin, pictured with Ross Bould, judged Savoy Soccer Club's best club man for 1975.



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The executive committee for 1976 was:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice president: Des Whitfield
Secretary:
Treasurer:

With new players in the side the junior team had trouble getting their game together and it was not until mid season that the side's first goal was scored. Although showing potential the juniors remained on the bottom of the ladder for the season finishing with high hopes for 1977.

On the contrary, the reserves team got stronger with every game they played and finished the first round undefeated. Defiantly holding top position for most of the season, in what has been described as a 'black day of soccer', the reserves were defeated 4-1 by Cobram losing their chance to win the flag to the hands of their old rivals. Nevertheless, the reserves still made it into the first semifinal which turned out to be a disappointing result to a fine year's performance. After trailing 2-nil in the final, Myrtleford just did not seem to have the strength or desire to score, thus, missing out on a finals berth.

The Myrtleford senior side repeated the same pattern in their games - losing the game in the first half and leaving their run too late. With poor refereeing and a shortage of players, the senior side sought nothing but problems. In one of the more desperate games, the team was defeated 8-1 by Shepparton South. This was the most goals the Myrtleford side had had scored against them in all the years soccer had been played.

Socially the year was successful for the soccer club and with an enjoyable end to a disappointing season the presentation night was attended by approximately 250 guests.

It was in 1977 that the Myrtleford soccer club transferred into the Albury-Wodonga soccer league as teams were in closer proximity. The executive committee for this year was:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice president: Des Whitfield
Secretary: Sebastiano Reverenna
Treasurer:

It was in 1977 that the controversy over Myrtleford entering the AWSL finally ended. For the past few years the Myrtleford club had vigorously fought to be accepted into the Albury-Wodonga competition only to be denied. Finally the club was allowed. There was, of course, certain conditions that were to be maintained.

Every season Myrtleford was required to gain permission from the Victorian Soccer Federation to remain in the competition and, above all, Myrtleford was to supply their own official referees. Thus, Vic Pin, Frank Mirt, Mario Merlonghi and Filippo Traini completed a referee's course conducted by an Albury-Wodonga referee who travelled to Myrtleford once a week. The group was required to pay for the referee's petrol and complete an oral, written and practical exam to pass the course.

The 1977 season proved to be an innovative year with the club fielding two new sides - under 14's and under 16's. The under 14 side showed a great amount of enthusiasm and improvement over the year and, although only winning a few games, the team proved they would be a dominating force in the years to come.

The under 16's displayed a talented side of players and through many ups and downs they made it into the finals only to be defeated by a much more experienced Wodonga side.

Soccer fans and players were confident for a greatly improved season and under new coach, John Smith and assistant coach, Frank Newman, the side arduously trained for six weeks prior to the first match.

The Myrtleford senior side soon proved they would be worthy leaders in 1977 holding top position after round one. With convincing wins against Albury United, 6-2, Hotspurs, 6-1, and Wangaratta, 4-0, Myrtleford was tipped to take out the premiership. However, after a loss to Twin City Myrtleford's chance of winning the 1977 flag was threatened. This game was a match that Myrtleford should have won, and won well, but instead turned out to be disastrous with local goalie, Alex Manzella, being taken to hospital with a leg injury. Twin City scored midway through the first half and it was not until the second half that the locals scored their much deserved equaliser. At that stage, the team was determined and came across as leadership material but with a loose ball past the back line, Twin City scored and Myrtleford was unable to recover losing the game 2-1.

Teams in the Albury-Wodonga league included Lavington, Twin City Wanderers, Wangaratta, Albury City, St Patricks, Albury Hotspurs, Wodonga Diamonds and Melrose Park Rangers.

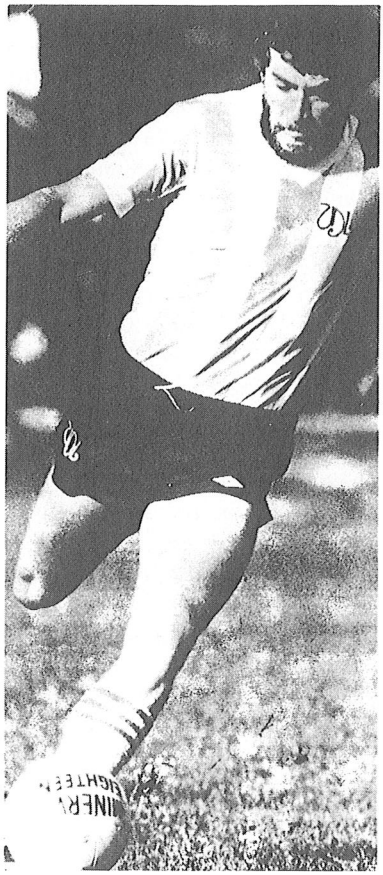
The local engineering firm of Frank Fabris PTY.LTD took over the complete sponsorship of the Easter knockout competition in 1977. What was formerly known as the Alitalia cup had now become the Fabris cup and, as well as the major trophy, Mr Fabris provided individual trophies to team members in the winning side.

Executive committee members in the 1978 season were:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice president: Des Whitfield
Secretary:
Treasurer:

It was evident that soccer in Myrtleford had grown over the previous years and with a number of younger players interested in the soccer club an under 12 side was introduced. The side had a reasonable season proving that their weakness was not because of their playing skills but rather their inexperience.

The senior side began the season well and, in particular, Lou Cappellari proved he would be a contender for the Best Player trophy. Cappellari's strong standard of skills and talent was demonstrated week after week and, in one specific game against Wodonga Diamonds, Cappellari scored a magnificent hat trick putting the senior side in a strong position for the season.

The local side entered the Con Stravos cup this year as the underdogs but, once again, Myrtleford proved they had what it takes to be champions.



Myrtleford player, Lou Cappellari, proved to be a great asset to the club.

In the cup grandfinal, the team encountered Albury United. By halftime Myrtleford was trailing 2-nil, but through the efforts of the determined duo, Bepi Tudor and Bert Zanghellini, the scores were brought to a draw. At fulltime the winner was determined by penalty kicks and Myrtleford emerged victorious 5-4.

With many up and downs throughout the season, the senior side was on the edge of entering the top five. In the side's final game the enthusiastic team played a skilful match with good tactics and proved Myrtleford would not be content with only fifth position.

In a hard and desperate encounter against Wodonga, Cappellari scored the first goal but it was not long before Wodonga equalised. With determination and persistence Cappellari scored yet again and Zanghellini followed. With Myrtleford holding their defence line, Wodonga remained scoreless and the end result was Myrtleford 3, Wodonga 1.

Myrtleford continued on their winning way defeating Melrose Park 6-4 in the first semifinal and, it was in a close and exciting second final that Twin City managed to defeat Myrtleford, 3-2, ending Myrtleford's finals hopes.

It was in 1978 that the club decided it was time to branch out on their own and, hence, approached the local shire council for an area of land to develop as a soccer oval at Memorial Park. It was pointed out that originally there were only two soccer teams training and playing on the local football ground but now five sides existed. This added use had caused deterioration of the playing surface and a clash of training times. The football club agreed to grant the soccer club the use of the ground for its junior teams, for the remainder of the season, if the soccer club would vacate the football ground and find another venue for training and competitive matches in 1979 and beyond.

It was in 1979 that the executive committee, traditionally male, included its first female representatives. The executive committee was:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice President: Teresa Novak
Secretary: Nobilia Caponecchia
Treasurer: Adrian Novak

Tension was evident in the 1979 season with doubts over where future soccer games would be held. An article was submitted to The Myrtleford Times on behalf of the MSSC depicting that the needs of the junior players should be addressed. The following is extracted from the article: "I am sure that nobody would like to see an international sport such as soccer go down especially for our up and coming juniors who have shown that they really want to play soccer ... Do we want soccer to be a big success in Myrtleford? I am sure we do, but we must have a lot of support from people around us."

By this stage, Myrtleford used the High School grounds as their second pitch for the junior sides but the soccer club was determined to find a ground of their own.

There were a number of reasons why the MSSC no longer wished to have the football ground for their home turf such as:
**It would involve continual splitting of the club*
**It would involve high costs*
**Future problems with the football club were foreseen with the possible introduction of Sunday football.*

The local council's indecision caused frustration to the MSSC and put them in a desperate situation where the club did not have a venue for the coming season. A home ground was needed and needed urgently.

Amongst all this havoc, the senior side had a steady season but did not manage to make a finals appearance. In the final game to finish the 1979 season, Myrtleford was well represented with the six local teams winning their matches. The newly formed under 10's side was unfortunate to miss out on a position in the top five by percentage.

The best team performance for the season came from the reserves who were victorious against Wangaratta in the semifinals, however, the side was defeated by Twin City in the preliminary finals. In the game against Wangaratta City Myrtleford was tipped to go all the way and become grandfinal contenders after annihilating Wangaratta 6-2. Myrtleford opened up their score in the first 15 minutes with a powerful shot from Ronnie Bau and Frank Newman doubled the score within minutes. From then on Myrtleford took control of the game and with a third goal, scored by Vic Pin, Myrtleford had a 4-0 lead at halftime after a Wangaratta player own goaled. In the second half, Myrtleford eased off and Wangaratta managed to sneak two goals past the Myrtleford keeper. Realising the mistake, Myrtleford applied pressure and with goals from Nannipieri and Bojnac the side sealed the game 6-2.

Executive committee members in 1980 were:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice President: Des Whitfield
Secretary: Nobilia Caponecchia
Treasurer: Adrian Novak

The 1980 soccer season was a year of significant change for the soccer club with the local council allowing the club to use Memorial Park as its home ground for the 1980 season. The prospect for playing on the ground was initially in doubt as councillors were advised that the grass on Memorial Park was not sufficiently established for sport.

Eventually the motion was passed and the council agreed to lease the park to the soccer club under the conditions that the club would be responsible for the complete maintenance and operation of the grounds and dressing sheds and responsible for cleaning the grounds and public toilets after every soccer match.

Myrtleford's fine form continued throughout the season and the senior side crept into the finals consolidating fifth position. The side kept their finals hopes alive after defeating Twin City Wanderers and traditional rivals and league champions Wangaratta.

However, in a disappointing result to an exciting final, Hotspurs gained victory with a penalty goal in the dying minutes of the game. Myrtleford had opened the game in brilliant fashion and Doug Mirt and Lou Cappellari kept the Hotspurs goalie on his toes. Myrtleford's defence line, led by Ron Bau and supported by John and Tony Vescio kept Hotpsurs numerous attempts from reaching the net, however, Hotspurs continued to apply pressure and after John Vescio brought down a Hotspurs player in the penalty area, Jules Cappellari failed to stop the kick. Although Myrtleford fought back their attempts were unrewarded.

Lou Cappellari emerged to take the best player for the seniors, the third consecutive year he had won.

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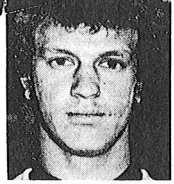
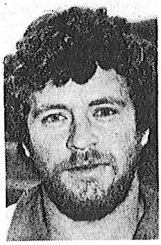


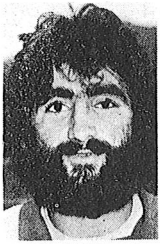
● Giuliano Cappellari

Myrtleford's senior side's finals lineup -Hotspurs defeated Myrtleford with a penalty in the dying minutes of the game.

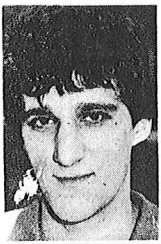


● Lou Cappellari

● Des Whitfield



● Frank Bonacci



● Doug Mirt

Myrtleford coach, Ronnie Bau,urges his team to lift their game.

GIULIANO CAPPELLARI (goalkeeper): 17. Student at Wangaratta Technical College. Came up through the junior ranks. First season with senior team. Took over keeping position from Frank Bonnaci. Baby of the team, but showing a lot of promise.

TONY VESCIO (full back): 23. Farmer. Fourth season with the team since leaving junior ranks. Fast, persistent defender.

JOHNNY VESCIO (full back): 21. Forklift driver. Another junior-grade product. One of the few left-footers in the association. Plays on the left wing when the need arises. Consistent player.

RON BAU (coach and sweeper): 22. Mechanic. His first coaching position. Started playing for Myrtleford juniors. Five seasons with seniors. Boasts great heading skills. A reliable defender who can kick well with both feet and often pushes play forward. Done a great job to take his team to the grand final in his first year as coach.

FRANK BONACCI (midfielder and utility player): 22. Farmer. Goalkeeper for three years after he left junior ranks. Very fit and fast player.

PEPI TUDOR (midfielder): 35. Painter. Veteran of the team, but still one of the best players in the competition. Good candidate for the AWSA-Hume Permanent Star player award. Evasive and dangerous player. Spent many of his younger days playing in the North-East Victoria League. Joined Myrtleford in 1971. Top scorer then. Age catching up with him, but still the backbone of the team.

DES WHITFIELD (midfielder): 34. Agricultural scientist. Joined Myrtleford after leaving Melbourne University in early 1970s. Left Border District to further his studies in Melbourne and America in 1977. Returned last year. Calm, reliable player.

DOMINIC TORCASO (right winger): 23. CRB worker. Came up through the junior ranks. Boasts long and hard kick. Fast and strong player.

LOU CAPPELLARI (captain and striker): 25. Farmer. One of the best junior products of the club. Extremely fast and accurate player. Loves scoring goals. Always a big headache for the opposition.

DOUG MIRT (striker): 21. Fitter and turner. Improved significantly in the past two seasons. Usually a midfielder, but recently proved invaluable in the forward line. Fast and never gives up. An opportunist.

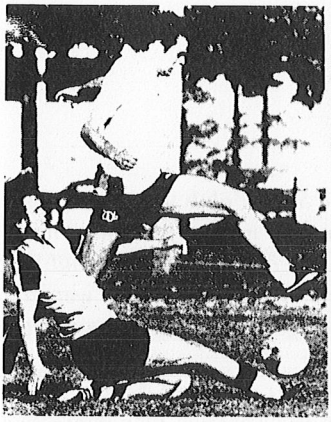
GEORGE AASLUND (winger): 27. Farmer. Joined Myrtleford in 1977. Had a two-year spell and returned to the team at the start of the season. Good teammate and top trier.

JOE MILOS (left winger and utility player): 34. Farmer. Came to Myrtleford from North Perth this season. Top reserve-grade player. Powerful kick with either foot.

MARCELLO VINCI (defender): 20. Farmer. Only played a few senior-grade matches. Improving all the time.

NOEL O'BRIEN (midfielder): 23. Roof tiler. Boasts good ball control. Good reliable player. Only insufficient training stopping him from playing in the team regularly.

STEVE BOYNAC (forward): 20. Farmer. Joined Myrtleford three years ago. Lacks accuracy, but fast and persistent.



Two players at full stretch - Hotspurs Robert White, and an air-borne John Antonello.

Myrtleford goal keeper, Guilano Cappellari, has the ball while teammate Maurice Zamperoni stands by.

An unbalanced Neil Strachan is about to be bypassed by Myrtleford's John Antonello.

The season also saw the under 10's make a finals appearance. The under 10 side played a thrilling game against Wangaratta only to be eliminated after penalty kicks. Both sides were evenly matched and played tight soccer with Wangaratta quick to score first and Myrtleford equalising through the efforts of Paul Whitfield. It appeared that Myrtleford would go on to score the winning goal, but during extra time, both teams still maintained a tight defence and penalty kicks decided the winner. Final scores: Myrtleford 1, Wangaratta 4.

Danny Novak, talented young goalie for Myrtleford, represented the Albury-Wodonga Under 12's side this season.

The executive committee in 1981 was:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice President: Bev Whitfield
Secretary: Nobilia Caponecchia
Treasurer: Barry Nunn

Following the expiration of its present lease the Soccer club was offered a 10 year lease on Memorial Park. Soccer representatives met with councillors to discuss lease arrangements and improvements to the club. The club found that the hot water supply was inadequate for members of up to 12 teams on wet days and the club suggested they play an active role in upgrading the playing surface of the park.

In the annual Fabris cup, played over the Easter weekend as part of the Tobacco, Hops and Timber festival, Myrtleford's performance was impressive although they failed to make a finals appearance. The cup was eventually taken by Wangaratta after a convincing 4-2 win against West Wodonga. Nevertheless, Myrtleford's effort in the cup proved to be an indication of what was to come in the 1981 season.

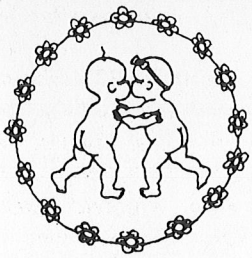
After a shaky start, Myrtleford soon crept into the top five and with a 6-nil win against St Patricks, a 4-nil win over Twin City and defeating Wodonga, 7-3, Myrtleford soon secured second position. However, the strong play of such team members as Cappellari, Bau, the two Vescio boys and the Mirt brothers in the end was not enough to give Myrtleford a finals berth.

So it was up to the newly formed under 12 side and the reserves to salvage Myrtleford's honour. Which they did. In the preliminary final the reserves were up against a determined Melrose Park side but Myrtleford's vigorous effort was not enough and the side lost to the Rangers 3-2.

So our best performed team for the season was the under 12's who met Lavington in the AWSA grandfinal. Myrtleford performed admirably in their encounter with the league winners but struggled to score goals. Final scores: Lavington 2, Myrtleford 0. The team was: (Goalie) Steve Mautone, Jimmy Borsi, Klaus Pozzebon, Peter Cavedon, Mauro Rebuffo, Paul Whitfield, Robert Caponecchia, Anthony Igri, Luca Casagrande, Tim Edwards, Carlo Alcaide.

Danny Novak made a rather impressive effort this year, being selected to play in both the AWSA and Riverina representative sides. Danny was also chosen to train for the Victoria Country side.

The under 12's side - Adrian Novak (coach) Mauro Rebuffo, Claudio Ellero, Klauz Pozzebon, Stephen Parmesan, Luca Casagrande, John Delvea, Steven Arman, Tony Suppa, Steven Mautone, Jimmy Borsi. Front row: Anthony Igri, player unknown, Carlo Alcaide, Danny Novak, Anthony Camillo, Ricky Cobbe, Robert Caponecchia.



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Executive committee members in the 1982 season were:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice President: Bev Whitfield
Secretary: Cathy Belci
Treasurer: Barry Nunn

The 1982 season was a year full of social events and activities. The first social event for the year was a bike-athon which encouraged 70 supporters of the club to ride to the Whorouly hotel and back. The bike-athon raised over $500 to aid the club throughout the coming season. Congratulations and a big thank-you went to Danny Novak who raised over $100 himself.

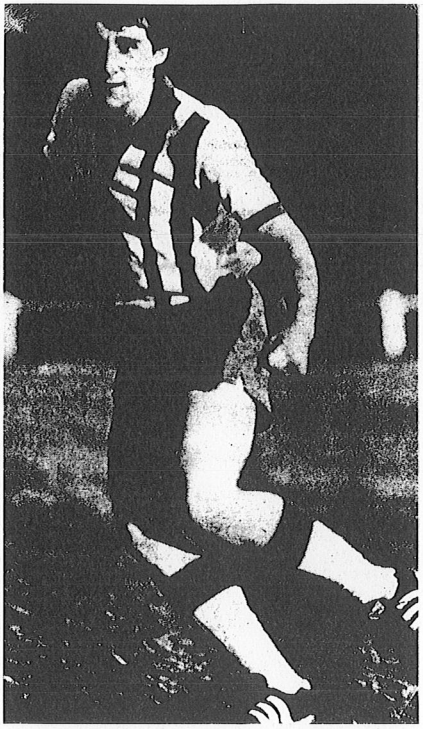
1982 also saw jubilant soccer fans take to the streets in Myrtleford to celebrate Italy's win in the world cup soccer final. About 60 fans loaded with placards, balloons, whistles and banners declared Italy as the world's number one soccer nation and marched for two kilometres to the Savoy Club to celebrate.

VIVA ITALIA!

Jubilant soccer fans take to the streets to celebrate Italy's win in the 1982 World Cup soccer final.

Lou Cappellari once again took on the arduous task of coaching the senior side and Stuart Hibbert, recruited from Wangaratta, coached a much improved reserves side. Unfortunately, 1982 was a disappointing season with the seniors struggling to maintain a position in the top five. Although the senior side failed to reach the finals, the side staged a magnificent 7-2 victory in the final game for the season with Lou Cappellari scoring five of the seven goals.

Once again, Myrtleford participated in the soccer competition held over the weekend as part of the Tobacco, Hops and Timber festival programme. The cup, this year, was sponsored by the Mirt family in memory of the late Frank Mirt, one of the founders of the Myrtleford club, playing for Myrtleford Savoy until 1967. He played in five consecutive premiership sides from 1963 to 1968 also playing in the winning Victorian Country Championship side in 1966. Frank also coached Myrtleford in 1974 and had to come out of retirement during that year because of the shortage of players. An active committee member from 1973 to 1975, Frank Mirt's association with the soccer club was one of hard work and dedication with his three sons, Doug, Sam and Anthony following in their father's footsteps and making a name for themselves as players, coaches and committee members for the Myrtleford soccer club.



Senior player, Doug Mirt, polled 20 votes at the 1982 presentation night.

It was the reserves and the under 12's who once again took charge in making a finals appearance. The reserves were consistent throughout the year and with a thrilling victory against Twin City, Myrtleford secured a finals position. But Myrtleford's hopes of achieving their first premiership win in the AWSA was destroyed when the under 12's were defeated 2-0 by Lavington and the reserves lost to Wodonga Diamonds 3-nil.

The senior count had supporters on the edge of their seats until the very last vote at the 1982 soccer presentation night. With Lou Cappellari and Tello Zorzutti each polling 18 votes, with one remaining, Doug Mirt on 17 points took the final vote to score 20 points and take the best player award.

Robert Caponecchia and Steve Mautone both played for the Albury-Wodonga representative side this year and gained positions in the Riverina competition.

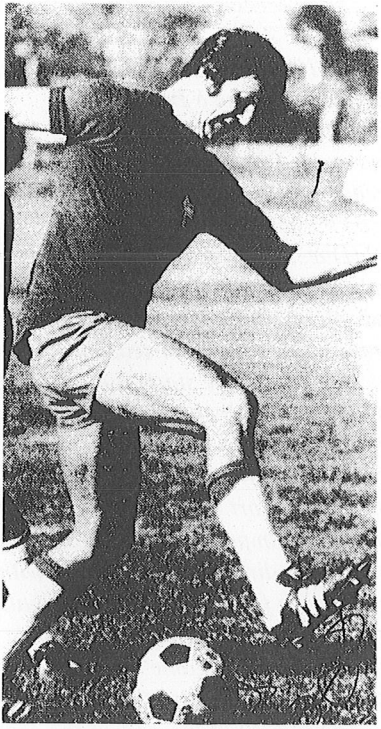
The executive committee in the 1983 soccer season was:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice president: John Camillo
Secretary: Diane Ferraro
Treasurer: Barry Nunn

After a mediocre performance last season, the soccer club took positive steps to improve their standard and was determined to bring sides to the top of the ladder this year. New coach, Frank Newman, was appointed for both the senior and reserves side. A strict no-nonsense coach, with a strong emphasis on fitness and discipline, Frank was determined to guide Myrtleford to a grandfinal victory. Also with three new recruits, John Antonello, Jack Molinara and Eugene Sacco, Myrtleford was fast becoming a side with great potential.

Upfront Myrtleford let the opposing sides know they were out to win and they proved this in the Con Stravos cup. After defeating West Wodonga, 4-1 and then Twin City Wanderers, 1-0, Myrtleford carried on with a convincing win against Wangaratta 4-nil. After five years, the much coveted Stravos trophy was finally returned to the Myrtleford club rooms.

Bepi Tudor, one of soccer's oldest pillars, continued his soccer career with Albury City in 1983. At 41, Bepi is a survivor of the game who has been part of all the ups and downs of soccer for as long as anyone can remember. He served 13 seasons at Myrtleford winning two club best players awards and he was runner-up several times. Bepi also played one season for Wodonga in the North-East Soccer Association before crossing to Whorouly. This move incurred the first transfer fee in the Border District at a cost of $175.

The season was full of ups and downs for all of Myrtleford's six competitive sides, nicknamed the "Jets". However, 1983 did prove to be an exciting year with the reserves outclassing the Diamonds side to win the 1983 premiership. In a brilliant display of soccer the Jets defeated Diamonds 4-2. With both sides struggling to gain the lead, the Jets midfielders, Zorzutti, Cano and 'Old Kojak' (Vic Pin) displayed some excellent soccer.



One of soccer's oldest pillars, Bepi Tudor, serving 13 years at the Myrtleford Savoy Club.

Inspired from Old Kojak receiving a yellow card the incident got the jets flying and, within minutes, Geoff Gasperotti fed Sam Mirt a beautiful pass which he slammed into the back of the net. With five minutes to go, Kojak and Tony Perez finished off Wodonga with another goal and the Jets flew home for 1983.

The under 12's and under 14's both played commendable games throughout the year but the "little jets" failed to make a finals appearance.

Steven Mautone was selected by the Victorian Soccer Federation to represent Victoria in the under 13 Victorian State side in the 1983 National Championship. Steven was fast becoming one of the AWSA's most promising soccer players and he was an outstanding player at state level. Robert Caponecchia also continued playing representative soccer for the Albury-Wodonga representative side and in the Riverina competition.

On a social note the Bello's Ball was a huge success, held on July 15 at the Savoy Club. The night included a three course dinner followed by a mock deb presentation. Cost was $10 per head.

The 1984 executive committee was:
President: Pompeo Paterno
Vice president: Steve Voglic
Secretary: Diane Ferraro
Treasurer: Barry Nunn

Due to the ever increasing number of juniors becoming interested in the soccer club it was necessary to form additional age groups. The Myrtleford club, thus, comprised under 9, under 11, under 13, under 15, reserves and the senior side in the 1984 season.

After a shaky start, the senior side soon improved and gained increasing points on the tally board. After maintaining second position for four consecutive weeks the side's premiership chances soon were threatened after subsequent losses and the team dropped down to fourth position. However, through the consistent effort of players like Lou Cappellari, Gianluca Novak, John Vescio, Maurice Zamperoni and Steve Voglic, Myrtleford's finals hopes were not completely diminished. Plagued with injury problems all season it was in the preliminary final when the side finally ran out of steam. The team was defeated by the narrowest of margins but their premiership hopes were destroyed nevertheless. The game was drawn one all at full time and the local socceroos went down 2-1 in extra time.

The ladder at the end of the season looked like this: Lavington 37, Albury City 34, Wodonga Diamonds 33, Myrtleford 30, Wangaratta 24, Wodonga City 21, Melrose Park 21, West Wodonga 20, Hotspurs 14, Albury United 11, Twin City 10, St Patricks 7.

The under 15's earned themselves a well-deserved place in the 1984 grandfinal but victory was short lived, with the local side going down 1-0, despite a magnificent team effort.

Players Robert Caponecchia, Adrian Bonacci and Norman Mancuso went on to represent the Myrtleford club gaining places in both the AWSA representative side and Riverina side, with Robert Caponecchia making his debut in the Victorian Country side.

The executive committee in the 1985 season was:
President: Nino Mautone
Vice president: Vic Pin
Secretary and treasurer were both undertaken by Diane Ferraro.

The under 9's maintained a reputation of being unbeatable throughout 1985 - and to think that the same team finished with the wooden spoon the previous season with only two wins. The stamina, guts and desperation of the inexperienced side took them right into the 1985 grandfinal. But unfortunately even the efforts of players like David Alcaide, John Dilorenzo and Frankie Martinez, could not produce the much deserved win they needed and after a controversial penalty awarded to Lavington the opposition was victorious.

Retaliating from last year's grandfinal loss, the under 15's once again sought a finals place and the determined side would not let go of their hopes to win the premiership trophy. And win it they did. The local boys finally put an end to the NSW team's winning run by taking out the coveted AWSA cup defeating United 2-nil. The under 15 side made history at the Myrtleford club by being the first ever junior side to win both the premiership and grandfinal trophies in the same season.

Under the guidance of new senior coach, John Milton, Myrtleford finished inside the top five managing to win the elimination final to meet Albury City in the semifinal. Despite a lot of changes the side lost the game 2-1. However, the side did win one cup in 1985 - the Frank Campagna Memorial Cup. Myrtleford outclassed Wangaratta, 6-5 on penalties. The senior side had a very handy new player in Dirk Grutzmacher who transferred from Albury City and fitted into the club well with his natural enthusiasm. However, the real basis of the club came from the long serving members - the Cappellari brothers, the Mirt brothers and the Vescio brothers.

During the year Myrtleford lost both goal keepers with injuries and, it was here, that young Steven Mautone made his debut into senior soccer despite the fact that he was only 15. This resulted in some criticism but Steven coped well and at that age he was already an outstanding goalkeeper in the league.

The club also congratulated Steven Mautone and Robert Caponecchia for representing the club in the under 15 Victorian Country representative side, where Steven went that step further to play in the Victorian State side. Other players to participate in representative sides were Klaus Pozzebon, Norman Mancuso, Adrian Bonacci and Jamie Rebuffo, who represented the Albury-Wodonga side and Jamie, Adrian and Norman also gained a place in the Riverina team.

The executive committee in 1986 was:
President: Nino Mautone
Vice president: Steve Voglic
Secretary: Adrian Emer
Treasurer: Diane Ferraro

The Myrtleford soccer club began the season enthusiastically. The club applied to the local council to upgrade existing facilities which included improving dressing rooms, upgrading the hot water service and the possibility of the provision of a verandah to protect the public from wet weather.

At the shire council meeting, Cr Ian Gross, said the soccer club catered for a large number of people, including players ranging from juniors through to seniors. He also said the club members carried out a lot of work themselves and did not often ask for assistance. It was pointed out that the soccer club had strong community support and was deserving of council backing.

1986 proved to be an exciting year with the inclusion of the very first women's side for Myrtleford. Under the guidance of experienced player, Sam Mirt, the ladies consolidated fifth position on the ladder narrowly missing out on the finals. A good effort for the newcomers. The ladies side consisted of Rachel Kelly, Danni Cardamone, Laura Villela, Jenny Ludbrook, Lisa Parisotto, Danielle Rickard, Roberta Bettio, Suzie Loncar, Mara Villela, Nadia Villela, Lena Cardamone and Sonya Ellero.

1986 saw a number of Myrtleford sides make a finals appearance with the under 16 team winning the AWSA grandfinal after defeating Wodonga City 1-nil. Through the consistent play of goalkeeper Steven Mautone and players Klaus Pozzebon, Robert Caponecchia and John Torcaso, Myrtleford was too skilful and last year's under 15 side took home the trophy again.

The under 15's side - AWSA grandfinal winners after defeating Wodonga City 1-nil.Back row: Anthony Feltrum, John Dussin, Robert Ceradini , Steven Mautone, Klauz Pozzebon, Mario Barbesan, Steve Macdowell, Jules Capellari (coach) Front row: Norman Mancuso, Mark Novak, Frank Notarianni, Pierres Graham, Robert Caponecchia, John Torcaso, Patrick Nardelli, Vic Pin (Manager)

Skilful and competent junior player, David Alcaide, was congratulated for scoring 100 goals in the season and received the best player award for the under 9's and runners up for the under 10's side. Steven Mautone also made a name for the Myrtleford soccer club after being selected to play for Australia in Taiwon in the under 16 team.

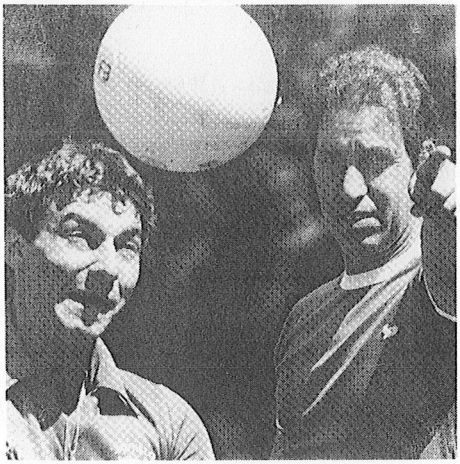
Other players to represent Myrtleford in Albury-Wodonga sides were Klaus Pozzebon, Robert Caponecchia, Jamie Rebuffo, Adrian Bonacci and Norman Mancuso, with all five players going on to play in the Riverina competition and Robert Caponecchia also representing the Victorian State side.

The 1987 executive committee consisted of:
President: Barry Nunn
Vice president: Vic Pin
Secretary: Suzie Picolotto
Treasurer: Giannina Pernigotto / Diane Ferraro

It was the under 11 side that went all the way to the top this year taking out the AWSA premiership and the grandfinal. In the grandfinal, the side had a convincing win against Hotspurs. Through the efforts of Liam Brokensha in goals and talented players Bryce Lunardi, Steven Sacco, David Alcaide and Frankie Martinez, Myrtleford wrapped up the game with a 3-nil win. Congratulations went to David Alcaide, once again, who won top goal scorer for the under 11's in the AWSA. David was proving to be a player Myrtleford should keep their eye on.

The under 12's, reserves, seniors and a greatly improved women's side all found themselves a place in the elimination final. This meant that five out of Myrtleford's seven sides made a finals appearance. Quite an impressive result! Although the four sides went down they were all only narrowly defeated.

The senior side was congratulated on their comeback late in the season, creeping into the finals from eighth position and defeating some of the top sides in the competition. Coaching a senior team was new territory for Vic Pin but with his enthusiasm and experience in the Myrtleford club, the side could only benefit from Vic's expertise.



Gianluca "Chook" Novak, heads a ball under the guidance of coach, Vic Pin.

Vic has experienced many of soccer's honours since joining the Myrtleford club in 1967, with winning cup finals and coaching junior teams just some of the highlights. Vic took up coaching the Myrtleford juniors in 1979 and, since then, has led the juniors to successive cup victories in 1985 and 1986. Vic is one of the oldest serving players at the club representing Myrtleford for 24 years with over 500 games to his name.

Once again, Robert Caponecchia, Jamie Rebuffo, Klaus Pozzebon, Mark Novak, Adrian Bonacci, Norman Mancuso and newcomer, Carlo Gios, gained a place in the Albury-Wodonga representative side with the seven boys also playing in the Riverina competition. Robert Caponecchia also played for the Victorian Country squad.

On the social side, the club held its second Bello's Ball on July 24. The night was a great success with a smorgasbord supper and an entertaining mock deb presentation. Other fundraising events included the annual quail and polenta night.

The executive committee in 1988 was:
President: Frank Bonacci
Vice President: George Ausland
Secretary: Diane Costanzo
Treasurer: Giannina Cappellari

In 1988 the soccer club approached the local shire to investigate the possibility of sponsorship signs at the soccer ground. The club explained that financial difficulties, associated with the problem of being unable to charge entry to the Memorial Park ground, had led to the investigation of alternative lines of funding. Some councillors argued that because Memorial Park was surrounded on three sides by residential areas the intrusion of advertising was undesirable. The council moved that further discussions be held to examine the possibility of using removable banners.

The under 10 side proved to be the most commendable side this year - taking out the AWSA cup. Under the expert coaching of Doug Mirt, Myrtleford won the final with a convincing 2-nil win. The team was Hun Brokensha, Dino Notarianni, Matthew Zanin, Luke Moore, Jonathon Watson, Brendan Vaccaro, Bradley Matthews, Bryce Lunardi, Tommy Antonov, David Alcaide, Paul Rizzato, Steven Pasqualotto and Anthony Zanghellini.

The under 12's, under 14's and the women's side were the only other local teams to make a finals appearance. Unfortunately, the under 12's side lost to St Patricks , 2-nil, in the second semifinal which was a disappointing end to a great year's performance. Both the under 14 side and the women's team played in the elimination final only to lose to a very experienced opposition. The under 14's lost to Wangaratta, 4-1, and the ladies lost to Albury City, 10-nil.

The senior side had an admirable year retaining second position on the ladder for most of the season. However, after a narrow loss to Twin city, 1-0, Myrtleford slipped to fourth place and was unable to regain their high rank. Controversy surrounded a Myrtleford and Wangaratta match played in the latter half of the season where Myrtleford had taken a 2-nil lead after goals from Caponecchia and Cappellari. Midway through the second half frustration soon became evident in the Wangaratta side and a scuffle broke out spilling onto the pitch. After assessing the alternatives the referee ruled to terminate the game.

The following week the AWSA executive heard evidence from both Myrtleford and Wangaratta sides regarding the incident and the executive made the following recommendations:

**The AWSA management committee had made it clear on several occasions that clubs should not contribute towards adverse media coverage*

**Both clubs contributed towards the termination of the match as a result of action by players and spectators*

**Wangaratta coach, John Antonello, would be sent a letter of reprimand by the AWSA for his premature actions of running onto the field.*

In a replay of the match, Myrtleford defeated Wangaratta 2-1.

Seventeen year old, Steven Mautone, received a 12 month scholarship at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. Steven returned from Italy this year after playing with a team in the Italian fifth division for nine months as a goal keeper.

Jamie Rebuffo was accompanied by younger players Steve Sacco, David Alcaide and Dino Casagrande this year, as the four represented Albury-Wodonga. Three Myrtleford players were also selected to play in the New South Wales State Championship this year - Norman Mancuso and Carlo Gios played in the under 15 Riverina side and Adrian Bonacci played for the under 16 side.

Talented young player, David Alcaide, proving he would be a dominating force for the Myrtleford club in future years.

Riverina players - Carlo Gios, Norman Mancuso and Adrian Bonacci.

The executive committee in 1989 was:
President: Frank Bonacci
Vice President: George Ausland
Secretary: Diane Costanzo
Treasurer: Giannina Cappellari

An article appeared in the local paper prior to the beginning of the soccer season encouraging more junior players to represent Myrtleford. Girls were also inspired to play and, at this stage, there were three young girls - Jesse Irons, Justine Clarke and Laura Rizzato.

A highlight for the soccer year was the presentation of life member badges to two of the soccer clubs older pillars, Rocky D'Agostino and Pompeo Paterno as well as newly elected life members, Adrian and Remy Novak, Jim Rebuffo and Vic Pin.

The under 12 side again represented Myrtleford in a grandfinal showdown only to lose 3-1 to a most improved St Pats team and finally the ladies were rewarded for their strong efforts over the previous years and the 1989 grandfinal was theirs. Wodonga Diamonds went into the game with the home ground advantage but the ladies were not deterred.

Pictured above is the senior ladies cup finalist side: Back row: Laura Keyte, Danielle Rickard, Rachel Kelly, Jeanette Parolin, Danny Cardamone, Suzette Kelly, Tanya Gaylard, Vic Pin (coach) Front row: Nadia Villela, Mara Vaccaro, Loretta Parolin, Lena Cardamone, Miranda Nardelli and Roberta Bettio.

A handball on the line by a defender denied Mara Vaccaro a goal but resulted in a penalty for Myrtleford with Rachel Kelly easily converting. However, the experienced Wodonga side kept the Myrtleford defence working overtime and with 15 minutes remaining, Diamonds scored the equaliser and then went on to take the lead. Final scores: Myrtleford 1, Diamonds 2. This was only the fourth year that Myrtleford had fielded a ladies side and the team did an excellent job in not only getting to the grandfinal but coming so close to winning it.

Myrtleford players Steven Sacco and Dino Casagrande gained a place in the Victorian Country team this year as well as representing Albury-Wodonga and Riverina sides. Other players to represent Albury-Wodonga were David Alcaide and Frankie Martinez and young Myrtleford goalie, Anthony Zanghellini, was selected as the reserve goalie for the Under 12's AWSA side.

19 year old, Steven Mautone, signed to play with Blacktown in Sydney for the up and coming summer season. Steven has spent the last two years at the National Institute of Sport.

Steven Mautone, signed to play with Blacktown.

The under 12's side: Back row: Andrew Marotta, Dino Notarianni, Paul Rizzato, Brendan Vaccaro, Julian Marotta, Bryce Lunardi, Bradley Matthews, Matthew Zanin, Front row: Jonathon Watson, Adam De Marchi, David Alcaide, Hun Brokensha, Tommy Antonov and Frankie Martinez.

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Executive committee members in 1990 were:
President: Frank Bonacci
Vice President: George Ausland
Secretary: Lorraine Taylor
Treasurer: Giannina Cappellari

1990 proved to be a big year despite efforts by the club to regenerate interest. An article appeared in the local paper encouraging the 150 registered players and supporters to show more interest or the club would fold.

However, on a positive note, the 1990 season proved to be an exciting one with more women taking up soccer as sport and leisure. The very first under 16 ladies side was organised, which included Bridget Culhane, Nicole Jackson, Kylie Wheeler, Michelle Bentley, Jackie McCormack, Tammy Garrett, Johanna Jeffery, Rachel Wheeler, Tanya Cardamone, Sonia Gios, Mandy Taylor, Karla DeOliviera and Laura Keyte. Coach was Anthony Mirt and, assistant coach, Rachel Kelly. With no experience, the side did very well in their first year gaining a position in the AWSA finals only to find they could not field a competitive side.

Congratulations went to Danielle Rickard, Nadia Villela, Rachel Kelly and Laura Keyte for their selection in the Albury-Wodonga Womens Representative side and also under 16 ladies Nicole Jackson, Tammy Garrett, Kylie Wheeler and Johanna Jeffery were selected to compete in Canberra for the AWSA representative side.

Nadia Villela became the first female to take up coaching in the junior ranks. Although the under 9's side was unsuccessful in making a finals bid, the young and enthusiastic team proved they would have potential in coming years.

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The very first Under 16 ladies side - Back row: Rachel Kelly (manager and assistant coach) Tanya Cardamone, Jackie McCormack, Michelle Bentley, Bridget Culhane, Sonia Gios, Anthony Mirt (coach). Front row: Rachel Wheeler, Kylie Wheeler, Laura Keyte, Tammy Garrett, Carla DeOliviera, Mandy Taylor and Nicole Jackson.

The under 9's - Back row: Matthew Carlassare, Brent Jagoe, Scott Berry, Steven Pasqualotto, Nadia Villela (coach) Tasman Wheeler, Duane Rizzato, Matthew Forbes. Front row: Ben Leita, Jye Leahy, Anthony Zanghellini, Shane Cobbe and Brett Jackson. Absent: Micheal Duerkop, Matthew Sample, Luke Raven, Trent Jeffery and Micheal Brown.

The juniors continued on their winning reign throughout the 1990 season with the under 14's winning the 1990 premiership. With the game forced into overtime, Myrtleford player Steven Sacco chipped the ball into the goals and gave the local side a well-deserved grandfinal win. Final scores were: Myrtleford 3, Hotspurs 2. The team was Robert Franzoi, Joe Marvilla, Steve DeOliviera, Matthew Zanin, Julian Marotta, Adam DeMarchi, Bruno La Spina, Dino Casagrande, Robert Marotta, Steven Sacco, Frankie Martinez, Andrew Marotta, Raymond La Spina and Adam Pasqualotto. Congratulations went to Steven Sacco who won the AWSA star player award in the under 14 age group.

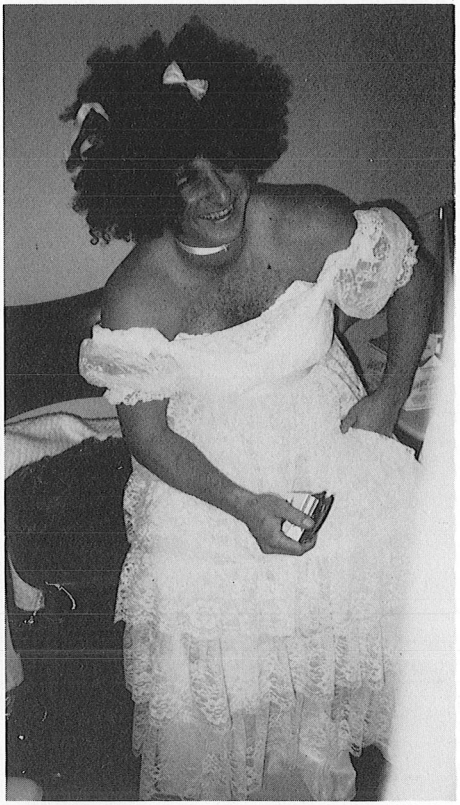
Soccer players and fans were treated to a special training day where Australian representative and local lad, Steven Mautone, held a special skills clinic.

1990 premiers - Back row: Jamie Rebuffo (manager) Adam Pasqualotto, Andrew Marotta, Steve DeOlivera, Steven Sacco, Robert Marotta, Raimond La Spina, Joseph Marvilla, Carlo Gios (coach). Front row: Matthew Zanin, Frankie Martinez, Julian Marotta, Robert Franzoi, Bruno La Spina, Adam DeMarchi, Dino Casagrande.

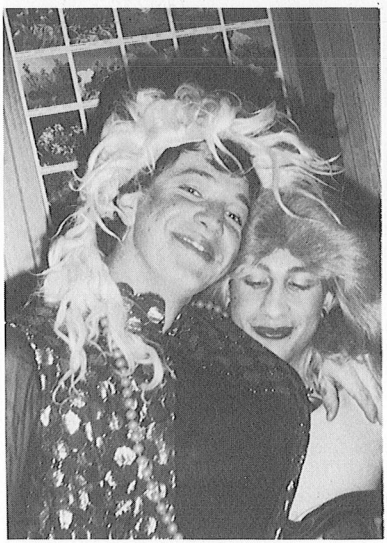
1990 saw representative soccer become even more popular as a large group of Myrtleford players represented Albury-Wodonga - Fernando Lamaz, Dino Casagrande, Steven Sacco, David Alcaide, Matthew Zanin, Steven Pasqualotto and Frankie Martinez. Steven Sacco also captained the Victorian Country side.

On a final note, the club held its third Bello's Ball and fancy dress night on Saturday, August 4. With large participation from players the night was enjoyable and rather entertaining for all.

The following are pictures from the Bello's Ball and fancy dress night held by the Savoy Soccer Club.



Players "Chook" Novak (right) and Jamie Rebuffo and Adrian Bonacci (below) dressed to impress ....



Under 16 girls, Bridget Culhame, Jackie McCormack and Tanya Cardamone with Peter Sacco and Michelle Bentley.

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1991 executive members were:
President: Nat Mercuri
Vice president: Sam Mirt
Secretary: Diane Costanzo / Nadia Villela
Treasurer: Giannina Cappellari

In the 1991 season the soccer club was once again concerned with the possibility that the club would fold. Nevertheless, on the field, the senior side produced one of the strongest sides in recent years. New recruits for the season were Mick Berlic, Scott Sheen, Andrew Leonard and Tony Kapista. The side had a number of exemplary wins but, Myrtleford could not maintain its winning streak, losing the chance to take part in the 1991 finals lineup.

Instead it was the reserves side, coached by Tony Kapista, who won a well-deserved place in the grandfinal - breaking an eight year drought. With every player performing with 100 percent, Myrtleford demonstrated great teamwork and accuracy, holding a tight defence and keeping the scores at halftime nil all. In the second half, Vic Pin scored only to be called offside. With neither team being able to convert the numerous attempts at goal the game was taken into extra time. Again, due to the great defence of both sides, the extra period ended with no scores. The game was then determined by penalties.

The reserves grandfinal side - raring to go ...

Pictured below is the reserves grandfinal team: Back row: Dom Torcaso, John Vescio, Carmello Notarianni, Jamie Rebuffo, Patrick Nardelli, Robert Franzoi, Frank Sacco, Robert Marotta, Julian Marotta, Nat Mercuri (President) Middle row: Micheal Sacco, Carlo Gios, Sam Mirt, Zachary Mirt, Remy Novak, Vic Pin, Frank Vescio, Tony Kapista (coach) Front row: Doug Mirt and Ronnie Bonacci.

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Myrtleford scored first. Then Hotspurs took a shot with Sam Mirt taking a beautiful save. To win Myrtleford had to score the remaining four, but unfortunately, the Hotspurs keeper saved the last shot to take the game four all. So another five players were chosen. The fifth shot by Hotspurs was once again brilliantly saved by Mirt, leaving the hard work to Dom Torcaso, who smashed the ball into the back of the net taking Myrtleford to victory. This was one of the most heart wrenching finals ever seen! Best player was Carlo Gios.

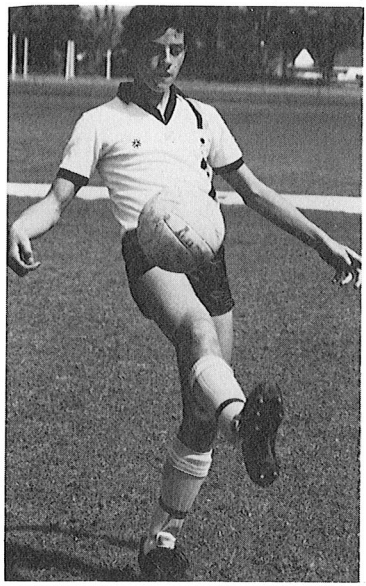
Senior ladies player, Rachel Kelly, received a cheque from the Railway Hotel social club to support her in her efforts to play in the National Women's soccer titles. Rachel who has played for the Myrtleford side for the past six years also played in the National titles in 1989. Karen Mackay and 15 year old, Laura Keyte, also made their debut in the National titles and Nadia Villela was selected for the training squad.

But really hitting the big time was local lad, Steven Mautone, with his selection in the final squad for the Olympic Games Australian team. With the squad he travelled to Europe playing in England, Scotland, Ireland, Switzerland and Poland. Sadly, early in 1991 Steven suffered a severe blow to his soccer career with a bad knee injury costing him his chance to play in Barcelona.

Angela Iannotta, Lisa Williams and Myrtleford representatives Karen Mackay and Rachel Kelly at the National Women's Championships in Canberra, playing for the Australian Capital Territory. The side defeated Western Australia 1-0.

Steven Sacco kept busy this season representing numerous sides. Steven played for the Albury Wodonga representative side, he captained the Victorian Country side for his second consecutive year and was also selected to represent the NSW State Country side. Steven also attended a special soccer clinic held at the National Institute of Sport.

Following in Steven's footsteps was talented player, David Alcaide, who was also selected to play in the Victorian State side. Other players to play representative soccer were Matthew Zanin and Fernando Lamaz, Steven Pasqualotto and Anthony Zanghellini.



Steven Sacco, captain of the Victorian Country side for the second consecutive year.

But really hitting the big time was local lad, Steven Mautone, with his selection in the final squad for the Olympic Games Australian team. With the squad he travelled to Europe playing in England, Scotland, Ireland, Switzerland and Poland. Sadly, early in 1991, Steven suffered a severe blow to his soccer career with a bad knee injury costing him his chance to play in Barcelona.

The 1991 senior ladies side Back row: Laura Keyte, Chris Chamberlon, Kelly Sandford, Naomi Jenkins, Laura Villela, Lena Cardamone, Anita Martinez. Front row: Mary-Jane Caire, Danielle Rickard, Bernadette Hayes, Nadia Villela, Wendy Waite, Danni Cardamone. Absent: Rachel Kelly and Karen Mackay.

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The executive committee in 1992 was:
President: Nat Mercuri / Frank Bonacci
Vice President: Dario Marotta
Secretary: Lorraine Taylor
Treasurer: Gianina Cappellari

The 1992 season saw the Myrtleford shire council support the soccer club's number one option for the relocation of the soccer grounds and changing room facilities to land at the rear of the local Savoy club. After the soccer club's rejection of the proposal to relocate to RC McNamara Reserve the club was advised to find a preferred option for their future facilities. Consequently, the club presented four options which included a partial development of land in the industrial estate behind the Savoy club with a second soccer pitch and changeroom facilities being developed on privately owned land to the east of the Savoy club, an area of land at the old timber mill site and the re-development of facilities at Memorial Park.

It was the newly formed under 7's side who proved they had what it takes to be 1992 champions. The young and enthusiastic side showed tenacity and determination to take out the AWSA grandfinal defeating Wodonga Diamonds 1-0.

Once again, the senior women's side continued on their hearty way in the finals campaign. After a 3-nil win against Albury United the side had the flag within reach but they were not strong enough against a determined Hotspurs side and their finals berth ended.

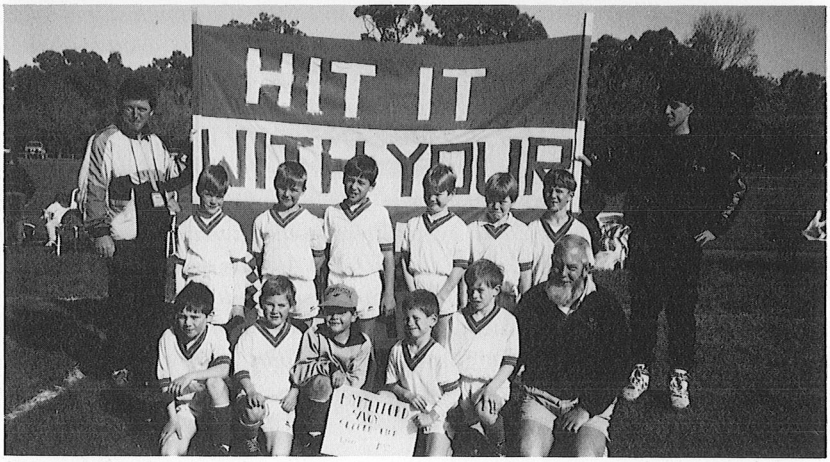
Representing Albury-Wodonga in the Women's State Championships, held in Canberra, were local ladies Rachel Kelly, Nadia Villella, Naomi Jenkins, Bernadette Hays, Laura Keyte and Bridget Culhane. Both Rachel, Naomi and Laura were named in the training squad for the national titles and spent a weekend in Canberra for a hectic training routine.

Steven Sacco and Steven Pasqualotto continued playing for the Albury-Wodonga representative side and it was talented players Fernando Lamaz, David Alcaide and Matthew Zanin who played in the Riverina and Vic Country competitions. Congratulations also went to David Alcaide and Fernando Lamaz who went even further representing the Victorian state side.

Early in the season, Steven Mautone spent two and a half months recuperating at the Australian Institute of Sport where he underwent rehabilitation therapy. Steven has now resumed his career with the Morwell Falcon's.

Budding goal keeper, Anthony Zanghellini, represented Albury-Wodonga once again in the Riverina Branch Championships and the Victorian Country Championships and, Anthony also achieved a place in the Riverina Branch Representative team for 1992. Anthony who also attends regular training sessions with Carlo Villani in Wodonga, was also selected to try out for the Victorian Country squad.

Pictured below is captain of the Riverina Branch side, Anthony Zanghellini, with coach Barry Van Dyke, and State President of the NSW Amateur Soccer Association, John Henderson.



Winners of the 1992 AWSA grandfinal - the newly formed under 7's side - Mal Smith, Matthew Pegarorio, Hayden Murray, Patrick Nannipieri, Gerard Smith, Jeremy Waite, Eric Michielini, Andrew Marotta Front row: Daniel McCormack, Nicholas Finlay, Steven Marotta, Julian Bau, Simon Vescio and Micheal Hood (coach).

In the 1993 season the executive committee members were:
President: Frank Bonacci
Vice president: Dario Marotta
Secretary: Diane Costanzo
Treasurer: Carla Bau

Controversy erupted early in the year over the decision to allocate industrial land behind the Savoy club for the new soccer ground. Concerns were voiced from all groups in the community depicting that positioning the soccer field on the industrial land fragmented the town's sporting facilities and meant the loss of a $100,000 industrial land site.

The soccer club took sole responsibility for the development of soccer pitches through the provision of voluntary labor, equipment and materials and the club was also required to assist in the construction of the changerooms, access/carparking, irrigation, lighting and ongoing maintenance.

Another change to take place was the incorporation of the soccer club. Moving with the times and following suite with fellow sporting clubs the Savoy Soccer Club took advantage of the benefits from being incorporated.

This season saw the rise of the young under 8's side who went on to take out the 1993 AWSA grandfinal in splendid form. The side won a well-earned victory over a threatening Diamonds side 2-nil. Congratulations went to coach, Carlo Gios and his boys, particularly Hayden Murray who finished off a fine year as captain of the cup side and winner of the association's trophy for the season's top goal scorer. Myrtleford also had further success at the junior level with Ben McCormack winning the association's trophy for the under 10's best goal keeper.

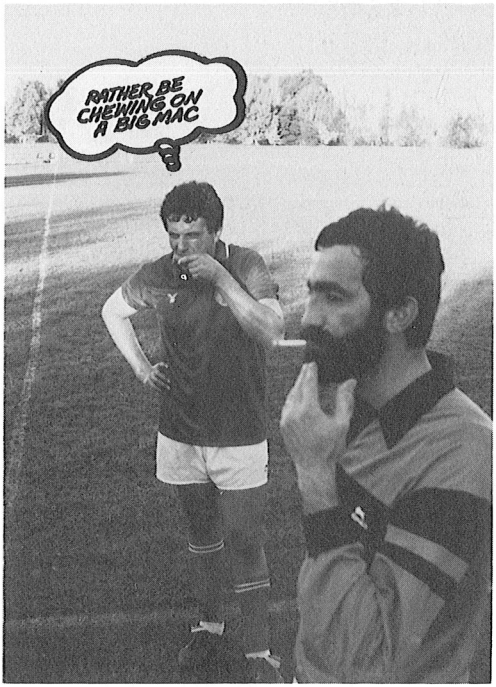
The ladies soccer squad geared up for another finals appearance only to lose to the SS&A Boomers side. It is not often that the better team on the day loses, but this was one such occasion. At fulltime the scores were 1-1 and with Myrtleford reduced to only 10 players, in extra time Myrtleford's efforts were hindered and, SS&A scored with only two minutes remaining. Laura Keyte, Bridget Culhane, Rachel Kelly and Nadia Villela once again represented the AWSA side.

The senior side showed potential at the beginning of the season with players Adrian Bonacci and Ismet Humic returning to the Myrtleford club. However, the side suffered a disappointing blow when coach, Robert Cox, resigned for personal reasons. In his place, Ron Bau was appointed. Ron was no stranger to coaching a senior side being the coach who last took Myrtleford to a grandfinal appearance.

Ron came through the junior ranks with Myrtleford and has had some 18 years experience as a senior player. The senior side to date has shown impressive form, after finishing last season on the bottom of the ladder, with the senior and reserves side sitting 5th and 4th respectively. Although the year started well for Myrtleford, due to injuries and suspensions, the side found themselves incapable of fielding the same team every week and they could not pull off consistent wins.

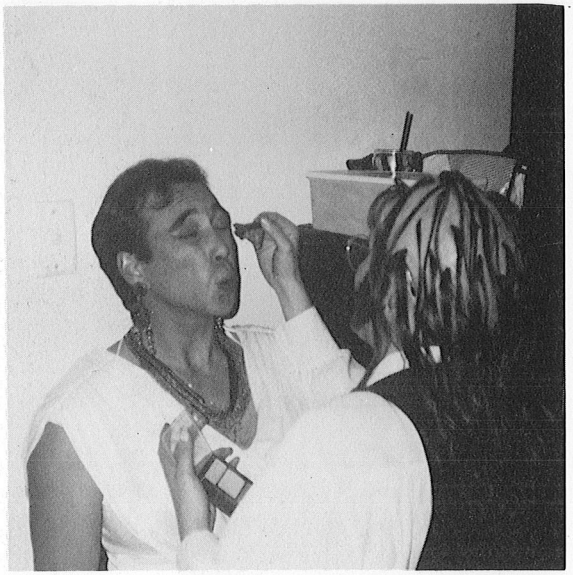
The 1993 senior side - Back row: Micheal Sacco, Adrian Bonacci, Steven Sacco, Robert Franzoi, Frank Bonacci, Mark Novak. Front row: Carlo Gios, Robert Caponecchia, Lou Cappellari, David Alcaide and Frank Sacco.

The Senior Side in fine form!



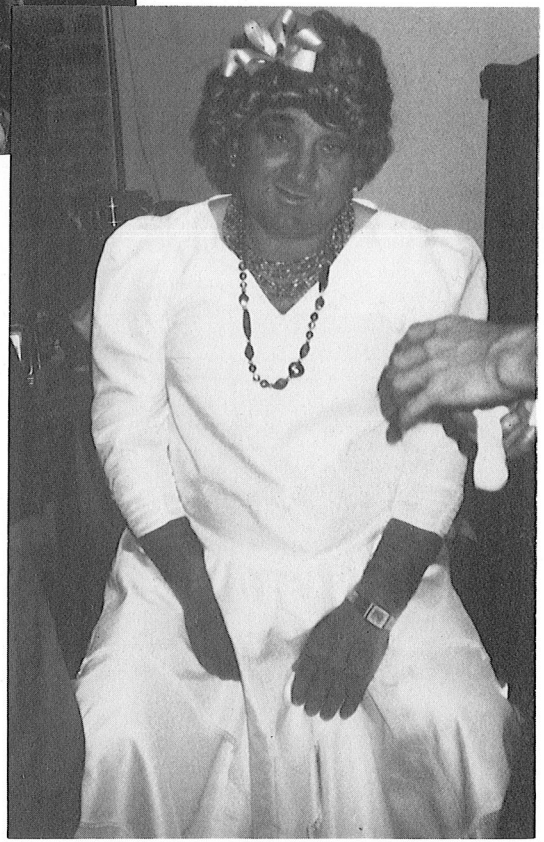
Dressed to impress at the 1993 Bello's Ball

Players Lou Cappellari, Frank Sacco, Jamie Rebuffo, Vic Pin and Stef Saric.



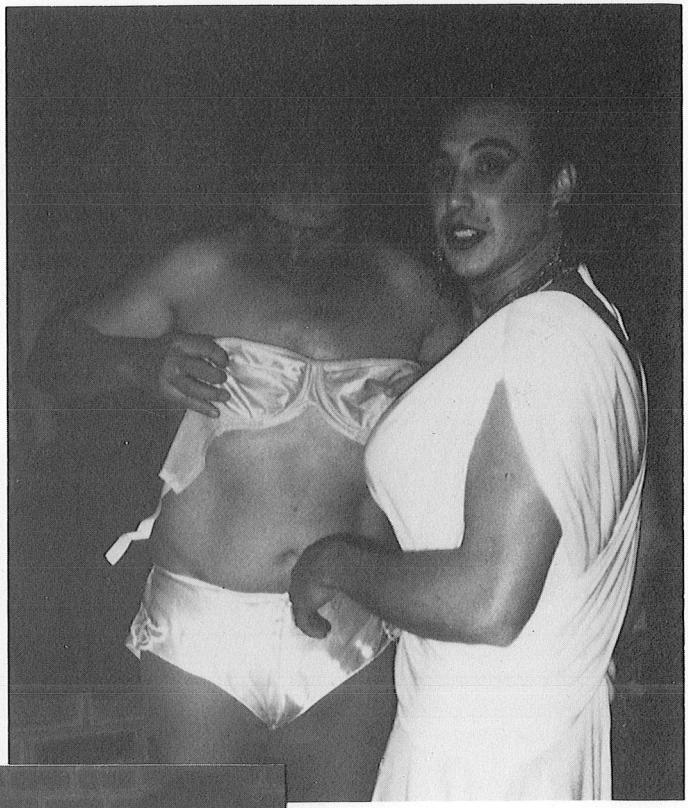
Stef Saric receiving a make-over

Soccer President, Frank Sacco, and Ladies player, Tania Hayes, strutting their stuff.



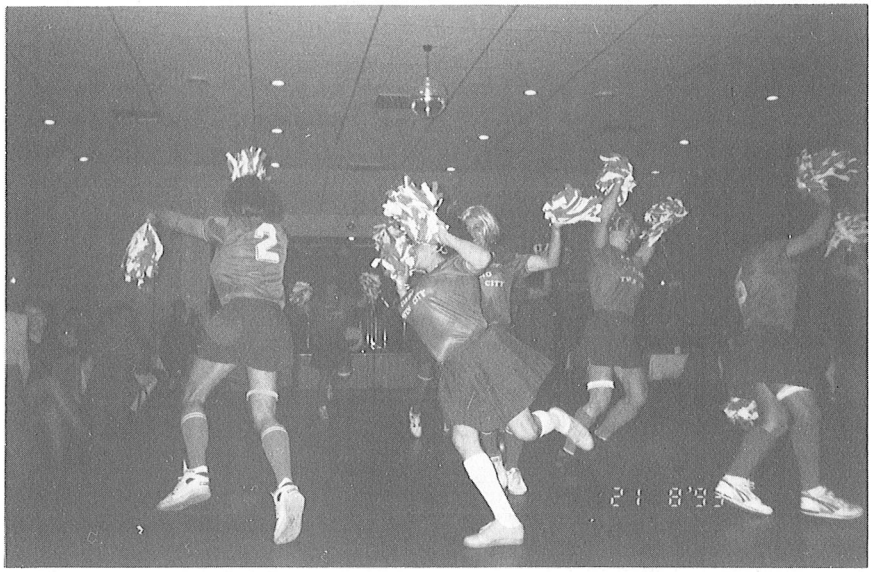
Remy Novak – Is he bored or just nervous???

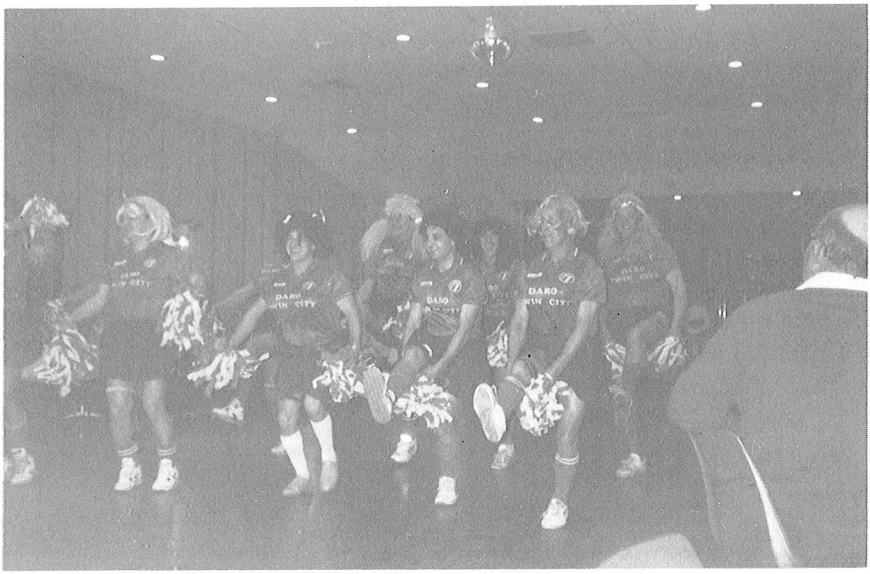
Sebastiano "Ciccio" Reverenna and Stef Saric - trying to work out how it fits.



Vic Pin - Do you think that color lipstick suits???

And finally ... *the cheerleaders - Don't they look great in skirts???*





David Alcaide and Steven Pasqualotto represented the Albury-Wodonga side and, once again, players Matthew Zanin, Fernando Lamaz and Anthony Zanghellini also played in the Victorian Country Championships.

Congratulations also went to Teresa Novak who received a life member badge, on behalf of the MSSC, showing the club's appreciation of Teresa's involvement in the soccer club over recent years.

On the social side the soccer club held their fourth Bello's Ball which saw an impressive line-up of talent and entertainment.

In 1994 executive committee members were:
President: Frank Bonacci / Frank Sacco
Vice president: Sebastiano Reverenna
Secretary: Diane Costanzo
Treasurer: Carla Bau

Preliminary earthworks were completed on the Savoy Soccer club grounds at the rear of the Savoy Club early in the season. The installation of drainage, water supply works and beautification works along the banks of the Barwidgee creek were also carried out. The total project has been estimated to cost $100,000. The facility received a $25,000 grant in the state government's 1994 $4.1 million funding program for sport and recreation facilities.

The 1994 season saw a number of junior players come up the ranks. Matthew Zanin made his senior debut and Fernando Lamaz played one of his first senior games at only 16.

Sam Mirt was appointed coach of the local senior side and with new recruits John Zanghellini, Scott Macdowell and Martin Reverenna, Myrtleford fast displayed a side with potential. Sam Mirt is not new to the coaching arena with over five years experience in coaching. Starting his coaching debut in 1984 with the under 9's side, Sam coached for two consecutive years and then again in 1989. He also has experience with the women's side in 1986, 1987 and 1992 and the senior side in 1990. With 18 years as a player and over 10 years as a committee member, Sam's knowledge of the local club benefited both old and new senior players.

Showing some initiative, players Frankie Martinez and Adam DeMarchi decided to give coaching a go, taking on the relatively hard task of the under 7's side. But the duo did a terrific job taking the side all the way to the AWSA grandfinal. The under 7's played league premiers, Melrose Park, knowing they were in for a tough contest. At halftime the score was in Myrtleford's favour at 1-0.

In the second half Melrose placed pressure on the team and with 20 seconds left, Myrtleford left their defence open and the Melrose striker found the net. Extra time was indecisive with no side able to gain control or score a goal. Melrose forced two corners from Myrtleford and that was the deciding factor in the end and the cup went home to Melrose Park. Although Myrtleford was defeated it was an outstanding effort nevertheless.

The league premiers, Myrtleford under 9's, played against their finals rival Wodonga Diamonds in what promised to be a top contest and the spectators were not disappointed. Myrtleford was leading 1-0 with a goal scored by Simon Vescio and, with Diamonds lining up to receive a free kick in the midfield, the whistle blew declaring Myrtleford victorious as the 1994 cup winners. This is the third consecutive year for the young champions and coach, Carlo Gios.

The under 9's - grandfinal winners for the third consecutive year - Back row: Carlo Gios (coach), Jeremy Waite, Hayden Murray, Patrick Nannipieri, Eric Michelini, Terry McCormack (manager) Front row: Nicholas Finlay, Daniel McCormack, Simon Vescio, Steven Marotta, Julian Bau, Adam Notarianni and Gerard Smith

The under 7's side- Left to right: Jonathan Mercuri, Ricky Roderiguez, Nicholas Finlay, Zachary Mirt, Jayden Vescio, Michael Ferraro, Jason Vescio, Paul Roberts, Adam Notarianni, Jye Cunneen, Matthew McCormack and Mark Costanzo.

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Following in his father, Doug Mirt and, grandfather Frank's footsteps, was young Zachary Mirt, making history at the Myrtleford club as a third generation player. Making his debut in the under 7's side, Zachary proved he may just outclass the outstanding reputation of his forefathers as a player of persistance and class.

The under 7's had further success with Jonathan Mercuri being awarded star player for the AWSA and Ricky Roderiguez receiving best goalkeeper for the AWSA. Also, talented youngster, Hayden Murray, polled winning votes for the AWSA star player award, as well as top goal scorer in the under 9's AWSA competition and best player in the grandfjnal.

The thirds and the ladies side also found their way into the finals competition, with the thirds being defeated in the elimination final by Albury City 2-1. The men showed a lot of promise throughout the year, but unfortunately a few games earlier in the season cost them a higher spot on the ladder and thus, a second chance.

The ladies side was also pushed out of the finals lineup by Albury Hotspurs. In a close competition with only two minutes remaining, Danni Cardamone broke through the Hotspurs defence and slotted the ball to Nadia Villela who scored bringing the game to a two all draw. After extra time the score still remained 2-2 but Hotspurs won 3-2 on a penalty shootout. A fine effort for the ladies side nevertheless, as the women needed to find players throughout the year and often played unmanned. New players for the side were Belinda Zanghellini, recruited Wodonga Diamonds goalie and, players Karen Gardner, Kerrie Cain, Laura and Sandra Reverenna, Sonia Pasqualotto and Elisha Torcaso. Ladies representative players for this year were Nadia Villela, Bridget Culhane and Rachel Kelly.

Steven Mautone continued making a name for himself in the world soccer arena representing the Australian Socceroos in 1994. Steven is currently playing for South East Melbourne.

Talented young player, David Alcaide, moved to Melbourne in the 1994 season and is currently playing for Bulleen. Up until the present year, Davvy had without exception, polled magnificently, always taking with him a trophy from the Myrtleford Savoy Soccer club.

Anthony Zanghellini continued to play representative soccer this season and was selected for the Albury-Wodonga side where he played in the Victorian Country Championships, the Riverina Branch Championships and he also represented the Riverina team in a grandfinal showdown, with the team coming home with a back to back premiership under their belt. Anthony has captained both representative sides since 1992 and this year, Anthony was also chosen to attend the Parklea Soccer Academy in Sydney to try out for the NSW Country State side. However, after being at Parklea for only two days, Anthony became ill and was unable to complete his try out.

And Man O Man, what an end to the soccer season. In a combined function with the Myrtleford Hospital, local soccer players, football players and some of Myrtleford's most eligible bachelors strutted their stuff for a Boy o Boy performance taking off the television series Man 'O' Man. Soccer representatives, Stef Saric and John Zanghellini made a rather impressive effort but the pair's humour was not quite good enough for them to be crowned.

Myrtleford Savoy Soccer Club entrant for the 1994 Timber Hops and Tobacco Festival, Sonya Pasqualotto and partner, Adam Pasqualotto.

The executive committee for the up and coming 1995 season is:
President: Frank Sacco
Vice president: Frank Bonacci
Secretary: Diane Costanzo
Treasurer: Carla Bau

First up, congratulations went to Dario Marotta and Ottorino Dal Santo who received life member badges for the Savoy Soccer Club.

As the cost of financing any sporting club increases, so to does the signficance of fundraising. Over the years, the soccer club has strived to present interesting functions for club members and guests - such as theme dances, Bello's Ball, dinner dances and, of course the most recent function, 'Man O Man.' With the establishment of the soccer club's new ground extra fundraising was imperative and, thus, through the fine efforts of the soccer club's sub-committee, fundraising continued throughout the 1995 season. The fundraising committee for the up and coming season is Frank Bonacci, Cheryl Sanderson, Ida Vescio, Nick Vaccaro, Angelo Sacco, Doug Mirt, Tony Grandinetti, Diane Ferraro, Ivana Michielini, Mim Marotta, Nadia Villela and Frank Sacco.

Final works on the new soccer ground commenced over the 1994 / 1995 holiday period. The club was granted a $25,000 interest free loan from the Myrtleford Shire Council to help complete the clubrooms and council-owned land in Myrtleford's industrial area was donated to the club for the project. To be completed for the beginning of the 1995 NESL rounds, the new ground will be one of the best in the league, with the first in the region to have both female and male changerooms.

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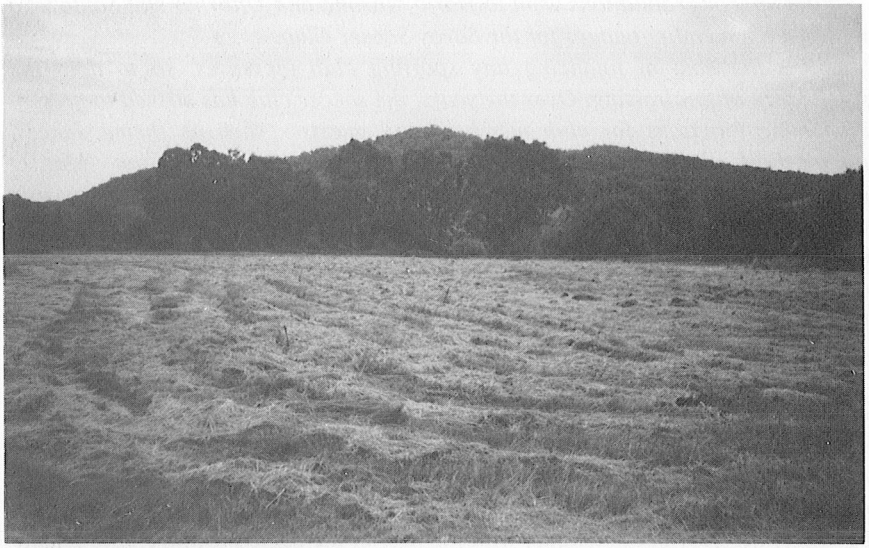
The following photos have been taken throughout the process of the club's new ground being built. The snapshots portray the land before work began, the construction that has taken place and the club rooms to date.

The vacant block before work began



Soccer players busy at work

Doug Mirt - Looking for rabbits???

Laying the foundation for the clubrooms

The ground to date

One of the oldest clubs in the Albury-Wodonga competition Myrtleford has seen many changes, both on and off the field, since the group of young soccer enthusiasts formed the local soccer club which has survived and prospered, to become what is today the Myrtleford Savoy Soccer Club.

For those who have experienced the past 35 years as part of the club, this history book would be a welcome stroll down memory lane with each game, and each year, feeling only like yesterday. However, for the younger generations who have merely heard the tales of the 1960's through the words of their grandparents or fathers it is engaging to read, through a different light, the tales of those dedicated soccer enthusiasts who were the founders of the Myrtleford club.

This history book simply depicts a handful of the stories and events that have occurred in the last three decades. In the hearts of players there would be memories that are hidden away and that will no doubt re-surface after this account is published.

Through many ups and downs the soccer club has managed to survive for over 35 years and this booklet is a compliment to each and every one of those seasons. Even more so, the book is a tribute to those players who were the founders of the club - and now play through the hearts of their children and grandchildren and to those who have sadly passed away.

A successful club is not measured by grandfinal wins but develops through years of time and effort by motivated, hardworking and willing people. From the majestic years in the 1960's, when the club was a driving force in the district competition, to the turbulent years in the 1970's, when the soccer club strived to form their own identity, to the 1980's which has seen the club grow from a two team club to a prosperous club with membership comprising more than 150 players and committee members. Now, in the 1990's, second and third generation players are carrying on the name of their forefathers and finally the club can look forward to the 1995 season with their own ground and club rooms. At last, the Myrtleford club has found their own haven and the club can continue to open its doors to all.

Nicole Jackson

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